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THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

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The Best of the Bay ... Every Week

THE REAL BLACKOUT

The lights go out. The bills skyrocket. Everyone's pointing fingers.

And the local news media is missing the real story: only public power

— not public bailouts — can solve California's energy crisis.

And San Francisco should be leading the way.

Plus: Deregulation FAQs and how PG&E is hiding its money [p.16]

Power for the people: San Francisco owns this hydroelectric dam — Hetch Hetchy — in Yosemite National Park. So why doesn't the city have its own public power system?

HEFNER'S TWILIGHT

Partying with Playmates ain't what it used to be [p.20]



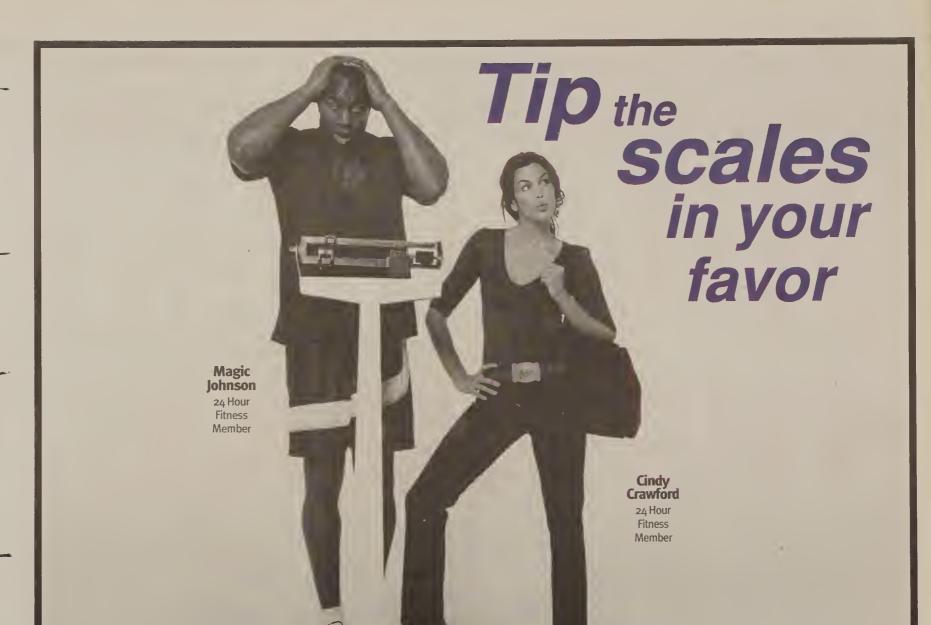


ORIGINAL DRAGON

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This week: Susan Gerhard and Glen Helfand on Sundance. Martin A. Lee and Norman Solomon on Ashcroft



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Puppet government: On Jan. 20, "president-select" George W. Bush's inauguration day, thousands of San Franciscans echoed boisterous protests in Washington, D.C. News media said it was the most heavily protested inauguration since Richard Nixon's in 1972.

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Bay Guardian Community **Fund**46

Launched in 1991 as our 25th-anniversary gift to the Bay Area, this annual fund has assisted many local nonprofit groups. We ask your help in building community through heartfelt giving.

in this issue

was on KMEL, 106 FM, Sunday night with Dave "Davey D" Cook, talking about Pacific Gas and Electric and the energy crisis, and we came up (more or less through the accident of conversation) with a perfect metaphor for what PG&E officials are trying to do to the people of Califor-

They're acting, Davey D said, like deadbeat dads.

Here you've got a major multinational corporation, one that over the past four years has taken in not only billions of dollars from ratepayers for electricity and gas but also the better part of a \$28 billion state taxpayer subsidy to pay off bad investments such as the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant, and invested that money in new projects all over the globe.

But just to be sure that nobody can touch that money if something goes wrong back in California, the corporate lawyers have set up a dazzling series of subsidiaries and corporate structures that make PG&E Corporation, the dad, completely unresponsible for the debts of PG&E Company.

Now PG&E Co. is caught in the squeeze of electricity deregulation. A few big power suppliers are charging outrageous rates for power, and PG&E Co. can only charge its retail customers a fraction of what it has to pay to buy that power.

So all of a sudden the company is looking at bankruptcy - and company officials want the ratepayers and the state of California to bail them out.

Well, guess what? Daddy's got a few yachts and villas hidden offshore.

As Daniel Zoll reports on page 17, PG&E Corp. has at least \$13.9 billion in assets that it's bought up in the past few years (with our money): Power plants in New England, Wisconsin, and Connecticut. A venture capital firm. A pipeline project. A software company.

So let's think about this for a second. Our money goes to PG&E Corp., which buys a bunch of new corporate toys, then claims that its subsidiary can't pay its bills, and so we have to pay more money?

Any decent family court judge in the country would slap a lien on that deadbeat's assets and sell them off to pay Junior's debts before letting the public get stuck with the bills. Why, exactly, should PG&E be any different?

Tim Redmond tredmond@sfbg.com

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What John Ashcroft learned from David Duke, Martin A. Lee's Reality Bites every Monday, sfbg.com/reality

Ashcroft and racism

Breaking the code, Read Norman Solomon's MediaBeat online every Friday. sfbg.com/MediaBeat

The revolving door "

Were Bush's ethics pledges more than just rhetoric? Read Ralph Nader's In the Public Interest every Monday. sfbg.com/nader

Pardon me

Pardons should reflect justice, not connections. Focus on the Corporation every Tuesday. sfbg.com/focus

TV picks

Father Roy: Inside the School of the Assassins — on KQED, channel 9, Sun/28, 6 p.m. - and more. sfbg .com/media/tv

'Mars Needs Women'

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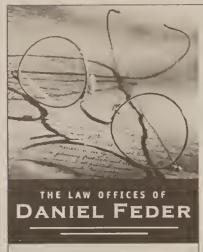
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Sexism, pure and simple

I am writing in response to Annalce Newitz's article "Losing the Gender War" [f/f0/0f]. While I applaud Newitz for her skeptical stance on socalled "conservative feminism" - an oxymoron if ever there was one — 1wish she had gone further in her critique and explicitly acknowledged that no philosophy which advocates submission of women to men (or men to women) can rightly be called feminist. Imagine a politics based on the following advise: An interracial couple is experiencing relationship trouble the white partner refuses to participate in the day-to-day tasks that are necessary to keep a household running and resents being asked to do so. The solution is simple: the partner of color should continue to fight racism in the world outside the home but inside should "surrender" to the white loved one. Conservative "feminism" is no different: it's sexism pure and simple - and progressive media sources should identify it as such.

> Nicole C. Raeburn Assistant Professor Department of Sociology University of San Francisco

Reactionary feminism

Besides the conservative feminism incisively depicted by Annalee Newitz, there is also sadly a rising reactionary "feminism" in Europe ["Losing the Gender War," 1/10/01]. The Telegraph of London reports that the German Nazi Party is now one-third women and that rather than the girlfriends

and wives of the past, the modern party is swelling with numbers of young skinheads who describe themselves as "independent women taking control of their own lives." These women are more ideologically bound than even the Nazi men, calling for stricter standards of racial purity and exclusion of non-German workers.

> Gerald Rosen San Francisco

The progressive agenda

The Bay Guardian is correct in noting that the local Dec. 12 elections established "what could be a profound and lasting transformation in local poli-["Onward from Dec. 12" 12/20/00]. The call for "a new, active, progressive organization, a nonpartisan, grassroots coalition that can work citywide" is right on target. When the Progressive Agenda for District Elections was created some two years ago, it was with two goals: (1) to find and help progressive individuals to run for the board from their district; and (2) to develop a progressive "agenda" for San Francisco. The Progressive Agenda helped initiate the work toward the great success we saw on Dec. 12. Now it is time to move the Progressive Agenda forward as an organization that will bring real progressives together citywide; hold our new supervisors accountable; provide a sounding board for their ideas; and, perhaps most importantly, generate progressive policy proposals for our newly elected officials to implement. We took back our city with mighty organizing, much of it based in longtime community activism, and the critical nature of that grassroots work and of an inside/outside strategy for creating change must not be overlooked as progressive communities heave a collective sigh of relief and hope. It's now time for the next step. Will you join me in uniting progressives citywide - while we continue to work within our districts - to keep our newly elected officials truly progressive and to start a lasting transformation of local politics?

Eileen Hansen Former candidate for Supervisor District Eight

Beyond voluntary treatment

I speak as a person who has suffered from manic depressive disorder for over 30 years. Many of us, since mental illness affects the thinking process, don't realize that there is something wrong with us. Mental illness is cunning, with episodes of the illness alternating with periods of normalcy. fn Los Angeles (city alone, not county) an average of 32 homeless people, most of them suffering from a mental illness, are raped each year. This is just the tip of the iceberg.

My husband is an outreach worker for a nonprofit agency which believes in only voluntary, noncoercive treatment, Miracles, some big but most small, occur there everyday. But there are a large number of people out there that will not respond to voluntary efforts because they don't know there is anything wrong with them. Giving them a

> sandwich is not going to get them to seek treatment.

Katherine G. Minsk Los Angeles

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opinion by kent pollock

Power policy, in the dark

overnment and energy industry officials scrambling for a solution to California's energy deba-cle have been struck by the same malady that permeates the crisis itself: secrecy.

Secret bidding. Secret deals. Secret restructuring. Secret negotiating. Secret information. Secret teleconferences. Secret federal approvals. Secret "gaming" and manipulation, the governor suspects.

Only the power brokers know for sure.

And now the public has been shut out of efforts underway to fix what has been referred to as one of the most costly public policy mistakes ever made. Negotiations among government, industry, and elected officials have been conducted mostly behind closed doors or within private teleconference meetings.

Self-serving nuggets of information emerge from the closed-door debate over how to feasibly solve the problem, but precious little substance is forthcoming to build confidence that the administration and legislature — the same institutions that got us into this mess — are formulating a solution beneficial to the ratepayers and taxpayers who will ultimately pay for the deregulation boondoggle.

Gov. Gray Davis has criticized the secret bidding process through which power is purchased by utilities, yet he has refused the press access and mostly excluded consumer groups from negotiations that will ultimately affect virtually every Californian.

One marathon teleconference negotiating session lasted more than seven hours and featured participation by federal regulatory officials, utility industry representatives, Davis, California State Senate president John Burton, State Assembly Republican leader Bill Campbell, State Senate Republican leader Jim Brulte, and State Assembly speaker Robert Hertzberg. Neither consumer groups nor the media were allowed to listen in on the session.

Burton has been highly critical of the veil of secrecy that protects utility operations from public scrutiny - while continuing to perpetuate the darkness by participating in the closed negotiations.

Burton has introduced a spot bill to require power wholesalers operating in California to report on their activities, but the bill at this point has no details regarding what disclosure would be required, or how it would be enforced.

The San Jose Mercury News sued the two agencies that oversee wholesale electricity auctions and the power grid to force disclosure of information vital to scrutinizing whether price manipulation is occurring. But a Sacramento Superior Court ruled that neither agency is subject to the state's open-government laws. No appeal was filed.

Any long-term solution to the deregulation crisis must include legislation requiring that all aspects of energy policy and sales be open to public scrutiny.

The few times neutral observers have been allowed to look into the dark world of power negotiations, they have found disturbing indicators of price manipulation. Last August, after studying competition in California's wholesale electricity market between June 1998 and September 1999, researchers at the University of California Energy Institute in Berkeley reported finding \$785 million "in excess of competitive levels" garnered by utilities during the 16-month period.

A recent draft order by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission determined that the boards of the two organizations that regulate power purchases by utilities should he reconfigured to remove the influence of stakeholders with a vested economic interest in the outcome of decisions, and legislation to that effect has been introduced.

But unfortunately, amendments slipped into the proposed legislation would allow the Electricity Oversight Board, which is empowered to reject appointments to the two boards that control wholesale power brokering — the Independent System Operators and California Power Exchange — to make the decisions in closed session.

A separate bill by state senator Debra Bowen would force all appointment decisions into the relatively open forums of State Senate hearings.

The governor should act by simply opening the entire process to the public and using technology to share information, ensuring public scrutiny of any forthcoming solution. Californians can now log onto the state's official Web site and watch elephant seals mate or listen to hearings on ordinary bills in the Capitol. So why not provide Web-based audio and video of negotiations for an energy cure?

As we have seen and experienced, the issue of secrecy in energy policy development has thus far left us, literally, in the dark. *

Kent Pollock is the executive director of the California First Amendment Coalition. He can be reached via e-mail at kpollock@cfac.org.

editorials

Power for the people

he New York Times weighed in Jan. 19 with a comprehensive story on the battle for public power in San Francisco, giving national prominence to the issue. The Los Angeles Times has already devoted a considerable amount of space to the success stories of publicly owned utilities. Public power has been discussed at some length on KFPA, 88.5 FM, and KMEL, 106 FM:

And yet the San Francisco Chronicle continues to ignore the real story behind the worsening energy crisis: the fact that the entire mess is the direct consequence of a deregulation plan written and promoted by the private utility companies, in the name of less public oversight and control of the energy market, and that the only real, long-term solution to the crisis involves public control and ownership of the electric utilities.

As Rachel Brahinsky reports on page 16, most of the political debate in Sacramento has focused on temporary fixes and relatively minor policy changes: public bailouts, perhaps a public purchase of some of Pacific Gas and Electric's hydroelectric dams (which is a public bailout of another sort), perhaps the creation of a state power authority to manage the power grid.

But in a growing number of communities around California, the energy crisis has given new life to the venerable idea of publicly owned electricity systems. It makes perfect sense: at a time when private price-gouging and a lack of conservation programs are crippling the state, public power agencies are thriving, with low rates, reliable supplies — and efficient, effective programs for renewable energy and conservation.

So far there's little being done in Sacramento to help those efforts. State senator John Burton is talking about creating a statewide power agency that would finance conservation efforts and new powerplant development, which is a plan that has some merits. But the Burton plan stops far short of giving local communities the ability to control their own electricity distribution systems. Assemblymember Fred Keely (D-Monterey) is pushing the state to buy PG&E's hydroelectric plants (which the ratepayers have already paid for over the years); it makes more sense to make the transfer of those plants (at nominal or no cost) to communitybased public power systems a condition of any taxpayer bailout.

Meanwhile, San Francisco — the only city in the country with a federal legal mandate for public power — should be leading the way, showing the state of California (and the rest of the nation) how communities can create a sustainable, reliable, locally controlled energy future. The petition for a San Francisco municipal utility district is scheduled to be heard before the Board of Supervisors Rules Committee Feb. 8. The committee, and the full board, should vote to put the MUD matter on the November ballot without delay. ❖

Out of the blocks

he new Board of Supervisors is off to a promising start. The district-elected board members have wasted no time in introducing a number of valuable reforms. Some will have a substantial and immediate impact; others are first steps. But the new supervisors have clearly announced that, unlike their predecessors, they won't fiddle while San Fran-

The most significant item on the new board's calendar so far is a six-month moratorium on the construction of live-work lofts, sponsored by Sups. Tom Ammiano, Chris Daly, and Sophie Maxwell. The moratorium would go a long way to preventing the further gentrification of San Francisco neighborhoods while the city finally comes up with some genuine planning guidelines based on community needs

There are already a number of other important proposals on the board's plate. Daly wants to eliminate guest fees from residential hotels and to increase funding for senior services. Sup. Matt Gonzalez hopes to block landlords from charging

tenants for building improvements until the courts have settled the dispute over November's victorious Proposition H. Sup. Mark Leno has proposed fining landlords who illegally convert live-work units into offices. And Sup. Aaron Peskin has at least three strong proposals: one would allow activists to appeal all Planning Commission decisions on developers' environmental-review statements, another would have the board review mayoral appointments to key land-use commissions, and a third would require political campaigns that make phone calls to voters to reveal who

Sup. Jake McGoldrick is looking into a City Charter change that would fill board vacancies by special election, not mayoral appointment.

After the appropriate public hearings, the new board should pass all of these measures swiftly and unanimously - depriving the mayor of the opportunity to veto. After five long years in which Willie Brown has had his fingers on San Francisco's throat, it's time for a change. ❖

A new zoo review

he privatized San Francisco zoo is a mess. The place fails to meet minimum federal regulatory standards governing animal facilities — while huge amounts of money are spent on glitzy, vapid marketing and exorbitant salaries. Security is so bad that a pair of koala bears was stolen just before Christmas.

So zoo director David Anderson has a hell of a lot of nerve asking the Recreation and Park Commission for a \$1 gate increase.

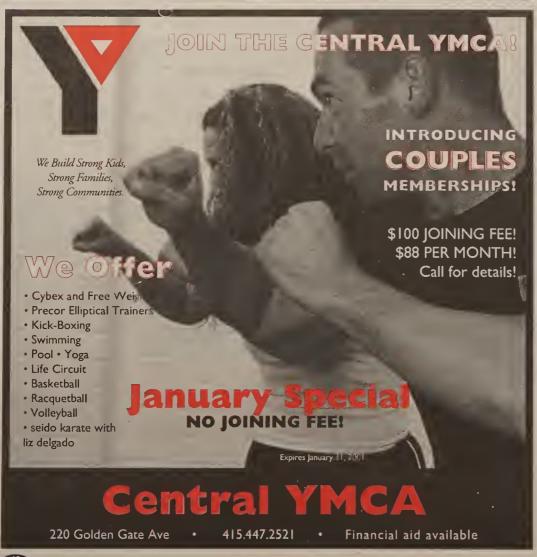
Anderson is asking to raise fees for adult residents to \$8 — that's \$1.50 more than the Oakland Zoo charges. As Margaret Brodkin of Coleman Advocates for Children and Youth points out, most local zoo visitors are working-class or low-income families; the hike in the price of admission is a regressive tax.

The proposal for higher admission fees is just the latest in a long line of evidence showing that the privatization experiment has been a complete and utter failure. The supervisors ought to use this as an opportunity to hold hearings on the state of the zoo and move toward ending privatization altogether.

In the meantime, Anderson, who earns \$123,000 a year, ought to withdraw this proposal immediately, and if not, Rec and Park should make it very clear: No more public money for the privatized zoo. *









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Stinking ships

If the transit authority gets its way, 120 new ferries will be spewing diesel into the bay

By A. Clay Thompson

In recent weeks the press has thrashed Muni for its plans to put 175 new dieselfueled buses on the road. But with all the talk-about diesel on wheels, little light has been shed on what could turn out to be an even worse problem: diesel on water.

The Bay Area Water Transit Authority, the agency that oversees commuter ferry service, is preparing to dramatically boost the number of diesel-powered ferries crossing the bay - from 12 to as many as 120. The authority, a 12-member board appointed by Gov. Gray Davis and state lawmakers, is expected to complete a blueprint for expanded boat service by late 2003.

San Francisco enviros are fuming at the prospect of increased diesel exhaust: studies show it causes cancer, triggers asthma, and contributes heavily to the region's persistent smog problem. Noting that public transportation is supposed to curb air pollution, they're pressuring the transit authority to put cleaner ferries on the water.

"Ferries are 10 times more polluting than cars," said Russell Long of the nonprofit Bluewater Network, which released a study in 1999 analyzing perperson pollution generated by ferries, buses, and cars. "Interesting that we spend so much time fighting diesel transit buses when the ferries are off the charts compared to them."

Equally troubling is the fact that commercial marine vessels have no legal obligation to be clean: the United States Environmental Protection Agency,

which sets federal standards for diesel emissions from cars and trucks, doesn't regulate the toxic spew of water vehicles.

Led by Long, enviros last month convinced the San Francisco Environmental Commission to take a stand on the issue. The commission adopted a resolution calling on the transit authority to build a natural-gas prototype vessel and design an "alternative fuel ferry plan." Natural gas vehicles emit almost no toxics.

Since most marine vessels rely on diesel, shifting to eco-friendly tech will require an aggressive, visionary approach on the part of the transit authority but there are some promising examples out there. Norway and British Columbia are using natural-gas commuter boats, and an Australian company is selling a solar panel-equipped craft capable of carrying up to 100 passengers.

Greens would like to see the sundriven vessel - which boasts a relatively sluggish top speed of 14 miles per hour - put into use serving tourist destinations like Alcatraz and Angel Island. "People would be totally into a solar powered boat going from here to Angel Island," argues Francesca Vietor, who heads the San Francisco Department of the Environment

Right now about half of the 12 ferries crisscrossing the bay are "fast" boats, boasting speeds of approximately 40 miles per hour. The transit authority's current - tentative - scheme calls for increased use of these high-speed vessels.

That concerns Long, who fears the speedier ferries may imperil marine life.



Diesel by the bay: Despite ample evidence of the fuel's hazards, water officials want to put more than 100 more diesel-powered boats on bay waters.

"There are so many gray whales coming into the bay now," he told us, "and fast ferries around the world are building up a dismal record for colliding with and injuring, or killing, whales." In the Canary Islands in just the past several years, he said, the boats have hit 12 whales

The Environmental Commission is only an advisory body - so now the question is whether the Board of Supervisors will take up the matter and draft clean-ferry legislation. Without revealing any details, Sup. Gavin Newsom told us he intends to introduce an alt-ferry proposal at next week's Board of Supervisors meeting. "I anticipate we'll have tremendous support for it at the board, and appropriately so," said Newsom, who also sits on the transit authority and plans to push the issue through that agency.

Golden Gate Ferry, which runs boats daily from San Francisco to Marin, may test some lower-emission diesel

vessels in the upcoming year, general manager David Clark said. On the other hand, Clark thinks natural gas may prove problematic. "Natural gas has been used on only one Coast Guard-certified ferry, so although natural gas may be an option at this point, it has not been used extensively at all," he told the Bay Guardian. "The logistic issues associated with the storage, the flammability, the range, the refueling infrastructure - a lot of these things have not been studied for vessels as large as ours."

Whatever the transit authority eventually decides, Vietor figures diesel's days are numbered. "I think diesel is going to be the next tobacco. I think we're going to start seeing civil suits against diesel companies, against big trucking companies, against bus companies." v

E-mail A. Clay Thompson at ac_thompson@sfbg.com.

Patrick Barnett speaks out on his cousin's murder

By A. Clay Thompson

I spent months trying to find Patrick Barnett. I needed to interview him for a story I was writing about the 1989 murder of his cousin, Roderick "Cooly" Shannon. I checked the phone book. I checked registered-voter rolls. I checked legal databases. No luck anywhere.

Then "The Hardest Time," the story of Shannon's slaying - and the men who may be wrongly imprisoned for it ran last week in the Bay Guardian. Three days after the piece hit the streets, Barnett called me, panicked.

Drawing from court transcripts, l had identified him as a "suspect" in the shoot-out that killed Hunters Point heads "Cheap" Charlie Hughes and Roshawn Johnson. Though Barnett, 29, admits he was questioned by the San Francisco Police Department about that incident, he vehemently denies any involvement in the crime. "I had nothing to do with it, man," Barnett told me. "They may have asked me did I know anything about it, and I told 'em no. It was no other questions about it.'

It's important to note that Barnett was just one of dozens of people interviewed by the cops and was never charged in relation to the shooting.

Police figured the "Cheap Charlie murders" were perpetrated by gangbangers from the Sunnydale housing projects and thought Shannon, a Sunnydale resident, was killed in retaliation - just because he lived there.

I asked Barnett for the view from the victim's family, a perspective I had hoped to include in the story. "I lost my soul mate. I can't even explain to you how hard it was. I grew up with him from the time we was babies. That's 18 years of my life that I grew up side by side with somebody," he said. "It was hard for the family. Too hard. It's still hard for us.'

He blamed the local media - the Bay Guardian included - for ignoring the suffering of Shannon's kin, especially that of his mother, Shirley Collins. "Since her son got murdered, no newspaper ever came to her and asked to do a story about her son." Shannon, according to Barnett, was a businessminded, car-loving teen who had no beef with anybody.

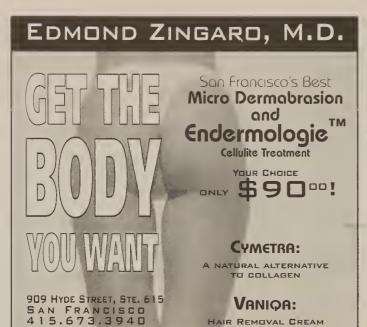
Based on the questionable and ever changing testimony of two young car thieves, a jury in 1990 convicted John J. Tennison and Anton Goff of the execution that took place in the parking lot of a Visitacion Valley corner store. Tennison and Goff, now serving 25 and 27 years to life respectively, have long maintained their innocence, pointing out that a man named Lovinsky Ricard Jr. has since confessed to the crime.

I was interested in Barnett's thoughts about the controversy: Does he want Goff and Tennison to rot in prison for the slaying? Or does he buy their claims of innocence?

"All I know is what I hear from the streets, and what I hear from the streets is that they didn't do it," he said. "I don't know what to believe. I'm up in the air on it ... From what I've been hearing over the years, they didn't do it." v

E-mail A. Clay Thompson at ac_thompson@sfbg.com.









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s.f. confidential by gabriel roth

Taxi dance

n last year's election Chris Daly took on the taxi industry - in the person of Chris Dittenhafer, a Willie Brown-backed nonentity whose first mailer was paid for by big cab companies.

Now Daly is challenging the industry from his seat on the Board of Supervisors. At the new board's first legislative meeting Jan. 16, Daly called for hearings to reconsider the effectiveness of the city's Taxi Commission.

The commission was created in 1998. by voters hoping to improve cab service. As anyone who's called a cab in the past two years knows, it hasn't exactly worked out that way.

The taxi industry has an inordinate amount of clout with the mayor - and it's the mayor who picks the commissioners. So, as Daly puts it, the commission "mainly does the bidding of the big cab companies," siding with Yellow and Luxor and the rest on everything from permitting issues to advertising on cab sides.

"When you have a neighborhood representative on the Taxi Commission like Chris Dittenhafer, that's emblematic of what this thing has become," Daly says.

Daly wants the board to think about ways to reform the commission, possibly by putting it under the auspices of the Metropolitan Transportation Authority. Of course, the authority's members are also appointed by the mayor so the cab companies aren't out in the cold just yet.

The more things change

Walking downtown Friday, a friend noticed Market Street's familiar "Impeach Clinton" protester, dressed in his customary space-age blue suit. The guy's got a new sign now: "Impeach Bush," natch.

Is the Chron still for sale?

Before the San Francisco Chronicle and San Francisco Examiner newsrooms merged in November, reporters wondered how the once-rival teams would work together. Now they might have a new concern: how they'll work with the advertising department.

In an opinion piece on Poynter.org, a Web site for journalists, new Chronicle publisher and CEO John Oppedahl gave his colleagues some free advice. 'To stay alive, editors will have to invite the marketing department into the newsroom and involve it in editorial decisions," Oppedahl wrote. "Cross-company teams of editorial, circulation, advertising and marketing will, together, plan the newspaper of the future."

Traditionally, newspapers' editorial and advertising departments have been kept apart — a separation of powers known in the industry as "church and state." The last high-profile publisher to call for the dismantling of the wall, Mark Willes of the Los Angeles Times, was royally embarrassed in late 1999, when it was revealed that his paper had secretly shared revenues from a special supplement on the town's new sports arena with the stadium's owners.

Is that the kind of editorialadvertising collaboration Oppedahl has in mind? We couldn't get him on the phone to ask him.

So we're left with his essay, which describes journalism as a product made up of "accuracy, timeliness, clarity, credibility, fairness and, above all, entertainment."

"Maybe it's intellectual entertainment of one sort or another," he continues, "but it's entertainment."

Sounds like a slogan to us. "The Chronicle: Intellectual Entertainment of One Sort or Another."

No more missing links

Political junkies (myself included) are cheering the return of Alex Clemens's Usual Suspects Web site, a clearinghouse for news and gossip about San Francisco's movers and shakers, at www.clemens.org.

Being Green gets easier

San Francisco's first Green Party supervisor is already trying to give the party a role in city government. Matt Gonzalez, the District Five supe who jumped the Democratic ship to join the Greens before December's runoff, wants the party to be included among the organizations that nominate candidates for slots on the Recreation and Park Department's advisory committee.

"The Green Party has been very active in environmental issues, so it would be inappropriate to exclude them from the list," Gonzalez told us.

He's also pushing to add a few neighborhood and environmental groups to the list, while Sup. Gavin Newsom wants to make his own additions and Sup. Aaron Peskin is backing two District Three parks groups.

So will the Greens have a policy role (albeit a small one) in city hall? Newsom, for one, thinks "everyone should be considered" - although, he points out, "if the Green Party is on there, one could make the argument that the Democratic Party and perhaps other parties should be considered.'

Quote of the week

"She's qualified. Women are still underrepresented. She knows the city. She knows the criminal justice system. She's a graduate of Hastings, I think. She'll do a great job ... you know the drill."

— Mavor Willie Brown San Francisco Chronicle on his choice of Kimiko Burton-Cruz, daughter of state senator John Burton, for the Public Defender's Office. v

Gabriel Roth joins Sups. Chris Daly and Sophie Maxwell and community activists Eric Quesada and Olin Webb for a panel discussion titled "Reclaiming the City: A Community Dialog on Progressive Priorities for San Francisco," Tues/30, 7 p.m., New College Theater, 777 Valencia, S.F. (415) 437-3425.

Got a tip? E-mail gabriel@sfbg.com.



New day: Artist and activist Debra Walker addressed the crowd at a jubilant rally outside the new Board of Supervisors' first legislative meeting Jan. 16. "This is the first time we can go up there and actually expect to be heard," Walker told the crowd.



alerts

by camille t. tajara

Media workers unite

Thursday, Jan. 25, LaborNet, Labor Video Project, Labor Committee for a Democratic Pacifica, and others provide an update on the struggle for community control at Pacifica's WBAI-FM in New York, and report back from Labortech 2000, a conference in which participants discussed strategies for developing, using, and defending labor-friendly media and telecommunications. 7 p.m., National Association of Letters Carriers Local 214, 214 12th St., S.F. Free. (415) 282-1908.

Multiracial justice film fest

Friday, Jan. 26-Sunday, Jan. 28, the Institute for MultiRacial Justice presents "Shades of Power 2001," a film and video festival geared toward helping build alliances among people of color. Call for schedule information. Victoria Theatre, 2961 16th St., S.F. \$5 donation per screening program; \$2.50 for students, the disabled, and low-income people. (415) 701-9502.

Crisis in Colombia

Friday, Jan. 26, UC Berkeley professor and coauthor of Cocaine Politics Peter Dale Scott and Daniel de la Pava of the Colombia Support Network in Chicago speak about the escalation of U.S. military involvement in Colombia. 7 p.m., Berkeley Fellowship of Unitarian Universalists, 1924 Cedar, Berk. \$5-\$10 donation. (510) 704-9608.

Immigrant rights are human rights!

Saturday, Jan. 27, hit the pavement in support of a general amnesty for all undocumented immigrants at a march and rally sponsored by the Labor Immigrant Organizing Network. Demand the federal government stop employer sanctions, end guest-worker and contractlabor programs, defend the rights of all workers to organize, support family reunification, and expand the opportunities for legal immigration. March begins at 11 a.m., St. Elizabeth's Church, 1500 34th Ave., Oakl.; rally 12:30 p.m., Carmen Flores Park, Fruitvale Ave. and International Blvd:, Oakl. (510) 643-2355.

Labor vs. the new world order

Saturday, Jan. 27, the Bay Area Workers Democracy Network presents a forum on the international struggle against neoliberalism, with reports on labor struggles in Turkey, Puerto Rico, and Mexico. 4 p.m., Artists' Television Access, 992 Valencia, S.F. \$5 donation. (415) 661-1371.

Relocation paint-in

Saturday, Jan. 27-Sunday, Jan. 28, lend a helping hand to A Waking Dream, a 10-year-old arts group that's losing its space to office development. Help paint furniture to raise relocation funds at an art furniture sale. Furniture, paint, brushes, music, and refreshments provided. Noon-8 p.m., 2815 18th St., S.F. (415) 642-5757.

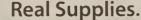
Stop senseless deaths at Chowchilla

Saturday, Jan. 27, join community advocates and family members of women prisoners at a memorial and demonstration in front of the Central California Women's Facility in Chowchilla, where eight female inmates have recently died due to a lack of adequate medical care. Participants are asked to wear black clothing. Call to reserve a ride. Sign an online petition at www.petitiononline.com/CCWF/petition.html. 1 p.m., CCWF entrance, Ave. 24 and Road 22, Chowchilla. (415) 255-7036, ext. 4, or (510) 665-1935.

'Reclaiming the City'

Tuesday, Jan. 30, Kris Welch of KPFA-FM moderates "Reclaiming the City," a forum on progressive change in San Francisco featuring supervisors Chris Daly and Sophie Maxwell, Eric Quesada of the Mission Anti-Displacement Coalition, Olin Webb of Bayview-Hunters Point Advocates, and Bay Guardian senior editor Gabriel Roth. 7-9 p.m., New College of California Theater, 777 Valencia, S.F. Free. (415) 437-3425.

Mail items for Alerts to the Bay Guardian, 520 Hampshire, S.F., CA 94110; fax to (415) 255-8762; or e-mail camille @sfbg.com. Please include a contact telephone number. Items must be received at least one week prior to publication date. Call (415) 255-3100, ext. 545, for more information. For more events, see the Benefits listings in the Calendar section or visit the Bay Guardian Action Network on the Web at sfbg.com/action. v





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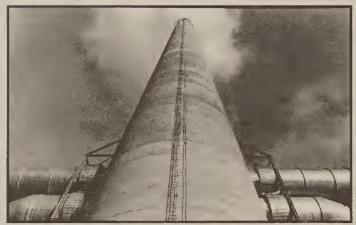
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Ma Real

While the statewide media has consumers hyperventilating over rolling blackouts is pushing for a public takeover of the state's electric system -







Private smokestacks, public waters: Nestled in the Yosemite Valley, the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir (right) supplies some of San Francisco's energy. But PG&E (plant, left) has monopoly control over most of the city's power.

t's been front-page news for months now: rolling blackouts, impending utility bankruptcy, and electricity rate hikes — and we're told it's all inevitable. A publicly funded bailout of the debt-racked utilities, we are told, is the only way to keep the lights on and the economy afloat.

Everyone from President George W. Bush and Gov. Gray Davis on down concedes deregulation's failure, but so far the state has merely offered a corporate bailout. It's a solution that critics say is short-term and skirts the real issue: the need for a community-based approach to energy policy. But you won't hear any real discussion of this idea in the mainstream press, where rescuing Pacific Gas and Electric and Southern California Edison from bankruptcy is portrayed as the state's top policy priority.

Call it a political blackout: press and politicians are largely ignoring the one solution proved to work — public power.

Public control of energy is not a new idea: 2,000 cities nationwide deliver power through publicly managed systems that have eliminated the profit motive that has driven California to the current state of crisis. The entire state of Nebraska moves its juice through publicly controlled lines.

Slowly and sporadically the concept of public power is entering the energy-crisis discourse. The California legislature, for instance, is considering a state takeover of PG&E's hydroelectric dams and may create a California Power Authority, which would enable the state to wrest some control of the electricity market back from the private energy companies. But so far there's been much more emphasis on public bailouts than on public control of energy — and there's a big difference be-

Not everybody is buying the press's and pols' bill of goods. Surveys show Californians don't believe that the well-publicized power shortage is real (which it isn't - see "Deregulation FAQs," page 17), nor do they trust Davis's assertion that if the utilities go belly-up, we all follow close behind. But what this skeptical public has not been told is that there is - right now - a way out of this energy-industry meltdown.

Already a growing statewide activist movement is calling for a fundamental rethinking of how electricity is made and sold. This includes moving toward better conservation programs, more reliance on green power sources, and community ownership of the poles and wires that carry electricity to people's homes. Publicly run, nonprofit power, advocates argue, will propel energy solutions that target citizen and environmental needs, instead of corporate bottom-line imperatives. The energy crisis has shown — even to doubters — that energy shouldn't be a commodity sold on the open market. Not only has it become an essential resource, it's also tailor-made for profiteering.

"The fundamental change that we should be looking at is local and state ownership of utilities," Joel Ventresca, cochair of the San Francisco Coalition for Lower Utility Bills (CLUB), told us. "Are we going to have democratic control over an essential service? Or are we going to have autocratic market forces gouge consumers and harm the environment?

Locally, activists and several city supervisors are pushing for a municipal utility district, or MUD, a public agency that could compete with - or replace -PG&E for electric service in San Francisco and Brisbane. In at least four other California communities, residents are looking into municipalization as well, and consumers across the state are talking about taking control of the whole system from top to bottom.

Advocates say that the benefits are straightforward: public utilities bring local control and a long track record of lower rates. According to the American Public Power Association, an industry advocacy group based in Washington, D.C., public power agencies charge an average of 30 percent less than privately held utilities.

Nearly all public power communities have cheaper electricity than that provided by PG&E. This December customers of Sacramento's public power district paid nearly \$20 less than PG&E ratepayers.

Many utility districts are run by an elected board of directors, giving customers decision-making power on key issues. In Sacramento, when energy users wanted to sever their MUD's dependency on nukes, citizens put a measure on the ballot that forced the utility to decommission the Rancho Seco Nuclear Power plant. SMUD has since developed programs in solar and other renewable ener-

That's the model that inspired local activists to form a MUD in San Francisco. The blackouts and price hikes are helping

"People are really getting in on the ground level of power education," Angela Alioto, attorney for CLUB, told us. "They're seeing why returning to public power is something we should have done years ago."

The coalition has spearheaded the campaign to form a MUD in the city for the past two years, and its members have been pushing for local control of the city's electric system since the late '60s. Last year the movement took off when citizens gathered 24,000 signatures backing a MUD ballot initiative. The Board of Supervisors is expected to put the question before voters next fall.

If approved, the measure would bind San Francisco and Brisbane together in a district that, independent of city government, could use eminent domain to break PG&E's control of the local electric grid. By legally grabbing PG&E's facilities - everything from poles to wires — the MUD would put control over electricity in the hands of ratepayers.

There's already a law on the books requiring this public control, but San Francisco has never complied with it. The federal Raker Act, passed in 1913, gave the city permission to build a hydroelectric dam in the Hetch Hetchy Valley of Yosemite National Park - on the condition that it be used to provide water and power to San Franciscans through a nonprofit, public power agency at the lowest possible rates.

But the city sold much of that power down the river. Before the dam was built, PG&E and the city signed an agreement giving the corporation first rights to sell power to residents and businesses. While Hetch Hetchy water remains one of the city's civic treasures, most of its power is diverted to customers of two communities in the Central Valley. PG&E's exclusive franchise agreement with the city has assured it monopoly control.

The 1996 deregulation law was supposed to break that monopoly by opening up the field of power generation. But because PG&E maintains control over distribution and charges a stiff delivery fee, it has been extremely difficult for small companies to break into the market.

"Many people say to me, 'How could this have gone on for so long?" Alioto said. "We're talking 80 years. L.A. has what we are going to create — but we already

Public ownership or public bailout?

Under the microscope of Davis's special session on the power crisis, there have been a number of "public" power solutions proposed in the past few weeks - including Davis's own plan to spend \$400 million in taxpayer money to buy power for PG&E and Southern California Edison.

Budget drain

Sup. Matt Gonzalez seeks way out of power contracts that have sapped city reserves

n a condemnation of a costly city agreement to sell electricity to two Central Valley communities, Sup. Matt Gonzalez introduced a resolution Jan. 22 asking the city attorney to end San Francisco's long-term contracts with the Turlock and Modesto irrigation districts. The electricity diverted to the districts is "desperately needed in San Francisco to mitigate the severity of the current energy crisis," Gonzalez's resolution states.

The contracts, signed in 1988, require San Francisco to sell a large portion of the power generated by the city's own Hetch Hetchy dam to the Turlock and Modesto districts, which use the power to imigate agricultural land. When the dam doesn't produce enough power to fulfill the contracts, San Francisco has to buy wholesale power to resell to the districts at a fixed rate. This year, because of a combination of factors including low water levels at the dam and high wholesale energy prices statewide, San Francisco is projected to lose as much as \$17 million by the end of the fiscal year, in June.

Gonzalez's measure already enjoys strong support: all three members of the Board of Supervisors' Public Utilities and Deregulation Committee — Sup. Tom Ammiano, Sup. Chris Daly, and Gonzalez himself — have told us they want to find a legal way out of the deal.

One way to pursue a renegotiation, according to the contracts, is to expand the city's public power system to serve residents (see "Break the PG&E Contracts," 1/10/01).

"I'm going to aggressively work towards public power by getting the best possible deal for San Franciscans," Daly told the Bay Guardian. "If it's good for San Francisco to get out [of those contracts], I'm for it."

Key to the negotiations are provisions in the federal Raker Act that granted the two districts some power rights when the city first built the Hetch Hetchy dam.

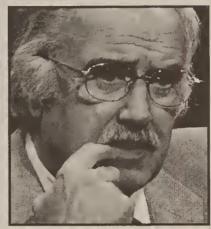
Savannah Blackwell and Rachel Brahinsky

Back Olli

and corporate bankruptcy, a burgeoning citizens' movement beginning with San Francisco. By Rachel Brahinsky







Power players: State and city officials, from Governor Gray Davis (center) to City Attorney Louise Renne (left), are sidestepping public power solutions. State senator John Burton (right) has entered the fray with a proposal to create a statewide power agency with broad authority

is lobbying the state to stop the bailout and to establish a public power agency to watch out for consumer interests and force the utilities to either negotiate fair power contracts or have their assets seized. "The energy and utility companies sponsored

Consumer advocate Harvey Rosenfield deregulation and have now used it to bring California to its knees," he said. "Paying energy companies a ransom isn't going to solve the problem."

> There are other proposals on the table that seek to put control of energy resources in the hands of the state. State senator John

Burton is proposing a statewide power agency to finance energy efficiency programs and new power plant development.

In another twist on the public power idea, Democratic assemblymember Fred Keeley is suggesting that California take over PG&E's hydroelectric system — but consumer groups say the idea is fundamentally flawed. "I wouldn't even call this public power," Doug Heller of the Foundation for Taxpayer and Consumer Rights told us. "This is public payment. The reason this is being floated as an idea is as a way to get money to these utility companies to keep them solvent, so you're cloaking a bailout with a buyout."

In San Francisco, too, for the first time in several years, there are competing public power ideas floating around city hall. Mayor Willie Brown, not typically a strong advocate for public takeovers of private enterprise, seems to be poised to take on the issue for himself. Brown told the New York Times last week that he is willing to consider the idea of municipalization. And this week he unveiled his pitch for California cities to create a joint power agency that could take over private power plants and sell electricity to residents and city agencies, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

However, mayoral spokesperson P.J. Johnston told us that the mayor has yet to take a position on the MUD proposal.

The type of city-run utility Brown seems to be promoting may sound good, but consumers beware: it's not the same thing as an independent MUD. The key distinction is that MUDs are autonomous from city government, managed by an elected board of directors. In San Francisco, a MUD could be out of the mayor's po-

It's within the mayor's reach, however, to help the city comply with the Raker Act. Until now he has refused to take on the thorny issue of enforcing the law by asking City Attorney Louise Renne to kick PG&E out of town. (The city attorney and the secretary of the interior are the only

two positions with the authority to enforce the act.)

And although Renne has filed a suit against power generators that names a PG&E affiliate as a defendant, Renne's office has never shown support for the MUD proposal that, advocates say, is a way to enforce the Raker Act.

Los Angeles has it. Why don't we?

There are already many well-established examples of public power systems throughout California.

The Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, the state's largest public power agency, has insulated its customers from the blackouts and bill hikes of deregulation. While deregulated bills in San Diego tripled to as much as \$138.50 last August, the average L.A. residential customer paid about \$50 a month consistently all year.

The utility has also reaped big cash windfalls for the city. Because it owns more than enough generation facilities to power Los Angeles, last year the utility transferred more than \$115 million to the L.A. general fund, according to assistant general manager Henry Martínez, Additional profits are rolled into paying off debts. About a year ago the utility broke ground on a new program to improve efficiency and is expanding green power programs.

'[You] have to do what L.A. has done, which is build power plants and invest in efficiency," Freeman told us. "Over time this will protect the consumer. I think public power is the biggest part of the answer [to the crisis]?

Northern California is home to a number of public power districts that have had similar, if not as dramatic, success this year, Palo Alto, Alameda, Sacramento, and Lassen all have public power, and all of them charge less than PG&E. Even after a 10 percent rate hike this winter, Palo Alto's average price will be 30 percent less than PG&E.

Continued on page 18

Deregulation FA0s

Why the lights are going dim

By Savannah Blackwell

Q: What's causing these blackouts? A: The utilities would like you to think that it's a simple matter of supply and demand — that energy use is rising in California, and there isn't enough power to go around, and blackouts will continue until more power plants are built.

And indeed, over the past five years, as the state has grown and the economy has been booming, energy demand has risen. But the demand for electricity isn't unusually high right now. In fact, it's about the same as it was last winter (when blackouts weren't an issue).

What's happening now is a direct result of the state's deregulation bill, A.B. 1890, which created a complex and completely secret auction market for electricity.

The law split the electricity business into two sectors: one group of companies generates power, and the other group buys that power and delivers it. (Pacific Gas and Electric has subsidiaries in both lines of work.) The companies that generate the power have an incentive to sell it for as high a price as they can get — and nothing drives up prices like a "shortage." There's evidence that the generating companies have colluded to hold power off the market (perhaps by taking generating plants off-line for "maintenance" more than usual or simply by waiting until the last minute to dump power into the auction). But since the bids are secret, there's no way to monitor this.

In other words, the blackouts are likely much more about profiteering and market fixing than about real demand and supply questions.

Q: Are electric rates going to keep rising? A: Most likely — at least, if PG&E, San Diego Gas & Electric, and Southern California Edison (now called Sempra) have their way. And so far there are few signs that the policy makers will thwart the private utilities.

On Jan. 4 the California Public Utilities Commission approved a 9 percent increase in electric rates for PG&E, but the utility says that won't be nearly enough to cover its costs.

PG&E Company (the division of PG&E Corporation that delivers power to customers) claims that it needs more rate hikes to stay afloat the power it buys from the generating companies costs far more than what retail customers end up paying. (Of course, another division of PG&E is in the power-generating business, so that side of the company is making out like a bandit.)

Q: Is PG&E really broke?

A: No, not by a long shot. The division of the company that delivers electricity is running a deficit of more than \$6 billion, according to the Wall Street Journal. But the parent com-

Continued on page 18

PG&E's other pocket

Is the company broke? Not even close. By Daniel Zoll

D acific Gas and Electric Company claims it needs a bailout by California taxpayers to avoid bankruptcy. But we're hardly talking about a company that's down

The utility's parent company, PG&E Corporation, has revenues of at least \$21 billion and total assets of nearly \$34 billion, according to Securities and Exchange Commission reports. The utility insists it cannot use the money from its parent (PG&E Corp.) to pay its debts, arguing that the state's deregulation bill requires the corporation to keep the assets and debts of its subsidiaries separate from one another - but consumer advocates disagree, saying that the law simply prevents the parent company from using the utility to subsidize itself, not the other way around

Our investigation of the corporation's assets, using SEC fillings, reports in the business press, and the research of activist groups, shows that PG&E Corp. is far from broke. Its earnings jumped 22 percent to \$225 million in the third quarter of 2000 from \$185 million in the same period the year before. PG&E Corp.'s National Energy Group subsidiary — one of the largest power producers and energy traders in the country — owns 30 power plants in 10 states.

Over the past several years PG&E Corp. has been aggressively investing money in new assets. Since its filings with the federal government don't break down its holdings by individual assets, it's difficult to determine how much each is worth. But here is a sampling of the company's assets and recent purchases:

Asset (or recent purchase)	Value (or price)
New England power plants	\$1.6 billion (1997 purchase price)
174 California dams	\$3 billion (PG&E estimate)
Purchase of 44 new turbines	\$7.8 billion (October 2000)
Power plant in Pleasant Prairie, Wis.	\$.5 billion
Power plant in Killingly, Conn.	\$.5 billion
Pacific Venture Capital	\$.5 billion
	(amount it plans to invest over five years)
Attala power plant in Mississippi	undisclosed
Stake in True Quote trading software	undisclosed
Aerie broadband pipeline project	undisclosed
Tolling rights to Philadelphia power plant	undisclosed
Tolling rights to Indianapolis plant	undisclosed
Total:	At least \$ 13.9 billion

SOURCES: PG&E, SEC FILINGS, PUBLIC CITIZEN, NEWS REPORTS

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Blackout

From page 17

James Pope, director of Silicon Valley Power in Santa Clara, tells a typical story. "We have physical assets, we buy in longterm contracts, and we protect our customers. We don't make profits. The money stays here," he said.

MUD victory near?

These success stories have not been lost on the new Board of Supervisors. Sup. Tom Ammiano has done everything possible to move the MUD proposal forward, and several of the new supervisors included the issue in their campaign platforms.

Sup. Matt Gonzalez told us that in addition to placing the MUD petition on the ballot, "we're also looking at the nuts and bolts of a revenue bond that could take over the distribution lines and could deal with the transmission of power from Newark to San Francisco.'

"I think for the first time it's caused a public that generally can't get interested in [electricity] to suddenly say, 'Wait a minute, how did we get here?' And there's suddenly a much more informed discourse around questions of [municipalization], so I think it's a tremendous opportunity for advocates of public power to finally have a victory in San Francisco," Gonzalez said.

Even in the statehouse, where the concept is usually given short shrift, public power is gaining support. At press time, Assemblymember Kevin Shelley had become the first Bay Area state representative to embrace the MUD proposal. Assemblymember Carole Migden still hasn't taken a stance but told us she's introducing a bill to give cities first rights to sell power to residents.

We've also tried to reach our other representatives to see if they will now support the San Francisco MUD. We faxed questions to Sen. Dianne Feinstein, Sen. Barbara Boxer, Rep. Tom Lantos, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, and state senator Jackie Speier. None of them responded.

A dam in a national park

Far up in the Sierra, on the northern edge of the Yosemite National Park, the Hetch Hetchy Dam towers 430 feet high. Built in 1923, the dam came with a unique mandate that remains unfulfilled. From the mass of concrete pours water from the Hetch Hetchy Reservoir, producing between 200 and 400 megawatts of electricity every hour, about 20 to 40 percent of what San Francisco Public Utilities Commission assistant general manager Larry Klein estimates the entire city typically uses. ("That's an estimate. Only PG&E can tell you, and they won't even tell us," Klein said.)

Some of the electricity is used for city agencies. But at least half of the dam's cheap public power is promised, through long-term contracts signed in 1988, to customers of two public power districts in the Central Valley. The rest is carried along transmission lines owned by PG&E, which charges a stiff "wheeling" fee for the service.

But with new leadership on the Board of Supervisors, this could be a watershed year for public power in the city. Gonzalez introduced a resolution Monday to investigate breaking the Central Valley contracts (see "Budget Drain," page 16).

And advocates say the MUD petition offers the city its first real chance to reclaim its power from PG&E. The issue has motivated a broadening political movement, including consumer and environmental activists, Green Party members, and other groups.

At a teach-in on the issue a few weeks ago, Alioto summed up the movement's motivations. "We've had the dam for 80 years. We've had power all this time. And it's been denied to us," she said. "It's time to bring our power back." ❖

News flash: Assemblymember **Shelley supports MUD**

In a pathbreaking development for the San Francisco public power movement, State Assembly majority leader Kevin Shelley announced at press time that he supports the formation of a MUD in San Francisco. "I support the formation of a municipal utility district," Shelly said in a statement to the Bay Guardian. "San Francisco customers would have a greater say in the development of a rate structure and in the types of services that are provided by a [MUD] than they do with PG&E." Shelley is the first of the Bay Area's delegation in the sta'ehouse to sign on to the idea, which is particularly notable because Shelley received at least \$7,000 in contributions from PG&E in his last campaign.

GET INVOLVED

- CONTACT THE COALITION FOR LOWER UTILITY BILLS AT P.O. BOX 2273, SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94126 (415) 364-1522.
- PROTEST PG&E RATE HIKES WED/24. MEET AT 4 P.M. AT GDV. DAVIS'S SAN FRANCISCO DEFICE, 455 GOLDEN GATE AVENUE, S.F. MARCH TO PG&E CORP. HEADDUARTERS AT BEALE AND MARKET STREETS FOR
- READ MORE ABOUT THE ENERGY CRISIS ON SFBG.COM. THIS WEEK: ENERGY EXPERT DAN BERMAN LAYS OUT HIS PLAN FOR SAVING CALIFORNIA'S ENERGY MARKET.

FA0

From page 17

pany, PG&E Corp., in late October 2000 reported a 22 percent jump in profits from the third quarter of 1999.

PG&E Corp. currently has assets of

nearly \$34 billion (see "PG&E's Other Pocket," page 17). On Feb. 12 PG&E got permission from federal regulators to protect the parent company from having to pay off the debts of its electricitysales subsidiary. It's a corporate-law shell game, though: the money's there. *



Don't let PG&E keep you in the dark.

– Bruce Brugmann, Publisher & Founder

THE SAN FRANCISCO BAY

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party

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Going to be a playboy

The Playboy Mansion at the real millennium. By Jack Warner

was going to the Playboy Mansion to kick in the New Year with my girl-friend. Her aunt and uncle were bringing us as their guests. It was an ironically family-oriented group for such a notorious, hedonistic occasion. William (as I will call him) and I were wearing tuxedos. My girlfriend and her aunt were clad conservatively in pajamas. The women weren't following the exact instructions in the invitation, which requested black tie for men, lingerie for women.

We were at a swank hotel in Westwood where William stays every year before going to the mansion. William did some literary editing for *Playboy* back in the '80s, and he still gets invited back every once in a while. His wife likes going too. After all, it's a great party, a feast for the eyes.

All of us were drinking champagne, getting up a good buzz before we left. My girlfriend looked beautiful, but nothing like the women we were going to see. I felt the underarms of my rented tuxedo shirt getting wet with nervous perspiration. This was what I had dreamed of since I was a boy and first felt the pain and pangs of sexuality.

Like most young males, I always had my eyes out for a copy of *Playboy*. Luckily — or unluckily — my grandfather kept a few hidden around the house, tucked away under the sink or in the closet. Getting my adolescent paws on his copies was something I began to look forward to on Sunday visits.

I scanned the pages, dreaming of what it would be like to see the mansion, to float around all that glorious flesh. I looked at the pictures taken at the parties and wondered what magic one had to conjure to gain entrance. Of course, this was in the late '70s and early '80s, when the mansion was at the height of its powers.

A steady girlfriend, much less her aunt and uncle, never entered into my fantasies.

Playmates at play

The mansion sits at the end of a residential street off Sunset Boulevard. Surprisingly, the wait to get into the mansion wasn't that long. All that stood in front of us was a white van with a lot of blond heads bobbing about excitedly inside. We cleared security — two men with FBI-style wires in their ears — and meandered up the hill toward the house. A sign cautioned us to beware of "Playmates at Play."

I thought back to the conversation I had had with my girlfriend about looking at women. I called our potential agreement the "open-eye policy": I could eye whomever and whatever I wished, as long as it didn't go further than that.

I had expected a bit of resistance from her on this point but had encountered none. I thought that bringing up the open-eye policy would start a long, painful process of negotiation. It didn't. I got a "fine," and nothing more. I had to

remind myself that William had taken this girl to the mansion for the first time at the tender age of 14. She'd seen it all. I don't think she thought for one second that I wouldn't be doing some leering.

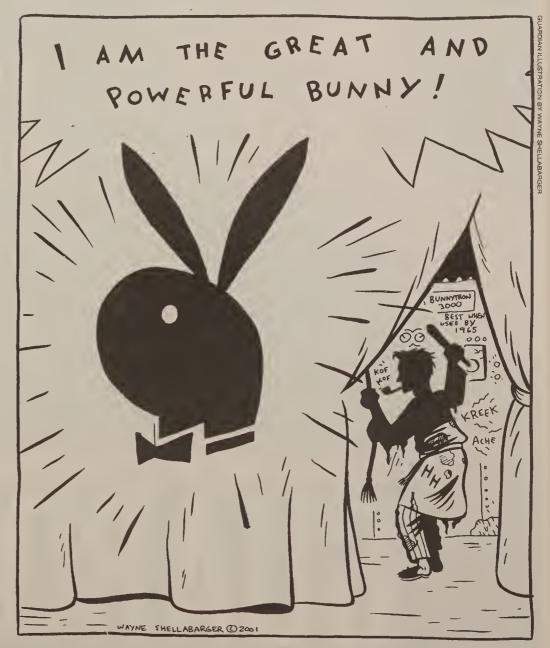
The rabbit's hole

Hugh Hefner's house is a castle — quaint yet monstrous. It wasn't something out of a fairy tale, but a fairy tale itself. The willow trees were lit wonderfully and the grass tightly trimmed. Immediately, I understood that it was a place where the imagination could run wild. Hefner had created a monument

In the narrow entrance, the blonds from the van were milling about. They all had fluorescent hair and fake breasts, mostly exposed. They were thin, with tiny butts, like 13-year-olds. Their eyes, cheeks, and mouths were all loaded with makeup. I'd say they were beautiful, of course, but then we'd have to talk about definitions of beauty. I was struck by desire but also by a certain repulsion. I realized for the first time that I would see the same version of this woman over and over again throughout the night.

Hef's grand backyard was covered by a vast white tarp, under which sat rows of

Once we said some hellos, my eye traveled off to the right, where a massive group writhed in front of a spray of lights. No doubt one reason I had glanced over there was that part of the crowd consisted of stacked women in gold and silver lamé. All of them were blond. I strained to see between the tanned bodies and caught my first glimpse of Hefner, sitting in the center, his arms around three women. He turned and whispered something to the playmate on his right, and she laughed, tilted her head back, and peered into the lens of a camera.



to surrealism, a wet-dream kingdom where he ruled supreme.

Not surprisingly, the car in front of us spurted out a stream of blonds. They were giggling and adjusting parts of their scanty apparel. Valets swarmed us. The car was whisked away. We walked through the great, thick portal, down into the rabbit's hole.

tables, buffets on either side, and a long bar at one end. There was also a "Playboy Cyber Café" in case you wanted to e-mail your friends from the mansion. At the farthest end of the backyard stood a stage where a DJ spun records between naked women painted like tigers.

We traveled down the lawn to the tables where William liked to set up shop.

Is he famous?

I spent a lot of time at the bar. That's the place where I am at most parties, New Year's or not. It is also the place where nearly everyone goes, especially on New Year's. Guests who approached the bar looked me over carefully, and I could hear each of them thinking, "Is he famous? Is he? No." Then they'd turn quickly to the

bartender. Of course I didn't mind their attention, because I was doing the exact same thing.

I must admit, I was looking for women. It wasn't that I wanted to be with one, for I had my girl right by my side, but some ogling material would have been welcome. I'm not going to say that I don't find fake breasts and fake hair attractive. I like pornography. But each and every woman who drifted through there was a version of the one who had come before her, a cookie stamped from the same cutter. I imagined the days before plastic surgery and wondered what it would have been like to be at this place when women could be beautiful on their own merit, made mostly as the higher powers intended.

Naked women walked by with lingerie painted onto them. Some of the painted tigers pranced around. Their bodies were beautiful, thin and lithe, but they were so obviously made. It seemed as if they had been hired to walk around looking available, and actually propositioning them would be out of the question.

I tried to catch their eyes, but they always darted quickly away. I am not a bad-looking sort, so I knew it wasn't just my physical appearance. Did one have to be famous to get any action in this joint? Considering the stars who were there - Scott Baio, Red Buttons, Dick Van Patten — the answer had to be no.

I was forced to conclude that the freewheeling days of the '70s and '80s were over. This was a factory now. The idea that playmates might be "at play" was an illusion.

No action

After the balloons dropped at midnight, I told my girlfriend that I had to pee and went to wander around by myself. I scouted the bathrooms and the back rooms until I was escorted out by bodyguards. I went out the front portal again and crossed the lawn to the game room. There were women around, and a lot of men. I saw one couple kissing and felt proud that at least somebody was offering a public display of affection.

In one room I was told that I had "just missed the show." There were indeed people starting the new year with a bang, but I had the sneaking suspicion that they already knew one another. Casual sex orgies were nowhere to be found.

Eventually, I asked one lonely-looking girl to come into the bathroom with me, but she shook her head sadly. No one propositioned me; I didn't even get a lascivious look. There was no action to be had! At the bar by the impressive stone pool, I told one particularly voluptuous woman that I was Robert Redford's son, and she told me to come back and get my picture taken with her.

For what it's worth, I wasn't actually about to engage in anything licentious. Maybe the women sensed that I was just performing my duties as a journalist. But even if I really had been trying, I think I still would have had an awful time of it. By 1 a.m. the crowd was thinning out, returning to the labyrinthine world of Hollywood to attend other parties, to meet other people.

I found the gang back at their table having one last drink. I asked them if my theories were correct. Was it over, the mansion? Not for Hefner and his seven girlfriends. Was it better in the '70s? Of course, Back then, one could come here and easily expect to find what had so eluded me. It really was a party then. John Belushi banged on the piano in the game room while Jack Nicholson played pool. People disappeared into corners at each moment. It wasn't about keeping an idea alive; it was about living that idea.

Now things are different. Playboy is a corporation bent on keeping its mystique alive. It competes in the very rough-andtumble world of pornography, which grows more explicit by the minute.

We sat there in Hefner's palace garden as the last, lonely people wandered aimlessly about, and we discussed the fact that the mansion presented the illusion of sexual fulfillment while no

longer offering it. For the people watching from the outside, the Playboy Mansion seemed to be what it always was. But for those inside, it had finally become what it promoted for so long: artificiality had triumphed over reality. *

Jack Warner is a pseudonym.



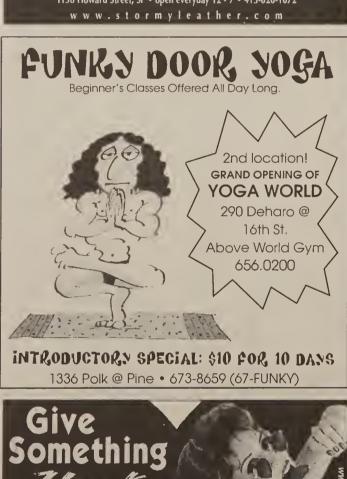
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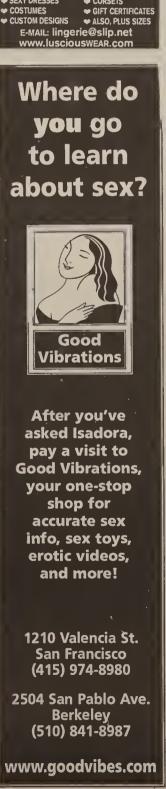
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ask isadora

Yoo-hoo!

Q: Hive on the third floor of an apartment building, I usually walk around in my panties and bra. I was in my kitchen recently when I noticed the curtains move on the apartment next door. When I realized someone was watching me, my nipples got very hard, and I immediately got horny. Hove the idea that I have a nice body that turns men on — with clothes on, anyway. Maybe I should also tell you that my boyfriend is kind of dull in bed. I've tried spicing things up and even made love to him in the kitchen so my neighbor could watch, but he always wants to go into the bedroom with the lights off. I've met the guy who watches me a few times, just saying hi when I see him in the Laundromat or when we both come home at the same time. I'm thinking about doing a striptease, then waving him over to my place. What do you think about this situation?

A: Since you asked, I think it's a piss-poor — and dangerous, let alone unethical solution to a boring sex life with your boyfriend. Pay some attention to the relation-

ship you have, improving it or making peace with it or cuding it. If you're going to go ontside of it, with agreement or not, I wouldn't add insult to injury by doing it in the bed (or the kitchen) you share with your lover.

Q: I am a pharmacist in a medium-size town. As such, I pretty much know which medications are being taken by lots of the people who live here. In the past couple of years, five or six men t was in high school with 35-plus years ago have begun taking Viagra. I know the physicians who prescribed it, and f am pretty confident they would not prescribe it for any reason other than erectile dysfunction. Now here's the odd part: these particular guys are all very generously endowed. I was in high school with them, and communal shower rooms left little to the imagination. I know a big flaccid penis does not mean a big erect penis, but I also dated two girls who also dated two of them, and they told me those I noticed the curtains move on the apartment next door. When I realized someone was watching me, my nipples got very hard, and I immediately got horny.

fellows had very impressive members. My question is whether having an outsized penis predisposes a man to early erectile dysfunction. Have you ever heard of this? I admit it seems to me that nature is getting revenge. Harry Horsecock now can't do anything with his limp kielbasa, while those of us in the ordinary or less than ordinary category are still stiff as a poker, without medication. Or am I fooling myself?

A: Yes, wishful thinking. There are men with small ones who have erectile difficulties, and men with huge ones who don't. If there is any connection at all to what you observe, I'd guess that guys who have depended all their life on their impressive penises as their only or main sexual advantage would be more concerned with keeping it in fighting condition than others might be.

Q: I am in a predicament, and I need your help. I've been going with this lady for almost three and a half years. We talk every day and see each other on the weekends. Physically, we are not completely compatible. I am six feet tall and pretty well built; she is short with a very pretty face and quite a bit of cellulite around her rear and thighs. She has taken me to Paris and to Italy and is very good to me and loves me very much. I have broken up with her twice and got back with her out of guilt. When I broke up with her last time, I went on a binge of homosexual encounters. I try to repress those feelings because she is so good to me. The homosexual encounters were all pretty much bummers. I do have these very strong gut feelings to make myself submissive to another man or to other men or to a man and a woman. I would love to experiment, but the guilt of keeping things hidden would be more than I could take. I am at a juncture in my life. Please help.

A: Do you want to experiment more than you want to be loved by a woman who is very good to you? If it's not possible to have both (have you tried to discuss this possibility?), then that's your decision. If you can't make it alone, consult a third party and lay it all out, the pros and the cons: trips to Italy versus being topped, pretty face and cellulite versus possibly more bunnner same-sex encounters. Most tough decisions involve giving up something for something else. Only you can decide which is most important to you. 🤝

Isadora Alman is a licensed marriage counselor and a board-certified sexologist. You can reach her online at her Sexuality Forum (www.askisadora.com) or by writing to her care of the Bay Guardian, 520 Hampshire, S.F., CA 94110. Alas, she cannot answer questions individually







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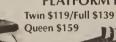
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techsploitation by annalee newitz

Revolution 99999

saw them wheat-pasted on the walls and on the bus stops. Construction sites were covered in them, glowing in Wired-style neon green, yellow, blue, and orange. Everywhere, all over San Francisco and San Jose, you couldn't help but see 99999. And sometimes it was more like 999999999, when the anonymous wheat-pasters got carried away. The nines were random, seemingly meaningless. Was it some kind of Andre the Giant campaign? A new message from the Billboard Liberation Front?

No. An intrepid pedestrian could discern, upon closer inspection, a tiny URL tucked into the lurid corners of a few 9 posters. When 1 realized this, I wondered to myself, "What new underground movement will this URL lead me to?"

Oh, dearest reader, what do you suppose that URL said? Perhaps you are wise and already know the answer:

www.microsoft.com/windows2000/server

If only I could whip up an audio file quickly, I would insert a link here to a brief clip of me screaming. All those 9 posters were ads for a Microsoft product and one that is nearly a year old, to boot. Of course I went to the stupid URL, which has a teeny gif of the neon nines, and explains that "'Five nines' is a measure of reliability for server operating systems ... Windows 2000 Server-based systems [are] designed to deliver up to 99.999% server uptime.

Great. I'm sure that means a lot to the homeless people who have been camping out under the sign of the nines in various urban locations. Are you feeling hungry? Well, why not upgrade your servers?

I still had some burning questions that needed answering. Did this strange new ad campaign go all the way to the top? Did Bill Himself dream up the nines during some weird antacid trip? Hoping to find out more, I called the local Microsoft office.

"What exactly are those nines supposed to mean?" I asked. A sunny P.R. rep explained that Microsoft was launching a new ad cycle, known as a "wild postings" campaign, that targeted several major metropolitan areas in the United States: New York, Boston, Chicago, Seattle, the usual spots. Apparently the wild postings coincide with what the flak called "our agility campaign, which is aimed at business leaders and I.T. professionals." More surreal information. She had no idea who had done the actual wheat-pasting, although she did comment, "Yeah, obviously somebody did it, huh?"

I kept imagining this secret cadre of Microsoft employees, dispatched late at night with buckets of wheat paste and big rolls of 9 posters. They would be just like those hip-hop kids who used to go around town slapping up stickers with their label's logo on them, or like those old-school culture jammers who wheatpasted hyperintellectual slogans on billboards. In the truest spirit of co-optation, Microsoft had appropriated the methods of anarchists and subversives in order to market their corporate technology.

So my thoughts turned to real anarchists, the people who had originated this model of wheat-paste communication. I visited the RTMark Web site (www.rtmark.com) - known for its hackerish activities, pranks, and protests and discovered that they'd organized their Web site into semi-joke "mutual funds," their term for various projects they're sponsoring. Their site looked exactly like a professional investment firm setup.

Then I visited the Billboard Liberation Front site (www.billboardliberation .com), and sent them an e-mail asking what they thought about the 99999 wheat pastes. No reply. It was just like trying to reach somebody at a big corporation: no response unless you have direct business with them. At least the Microsoft rep had gotten back to me within a day.

The subversives were creating mutual funds, while Microsoft was trying to get some street cred with its "wild postings," This mutual co-optation pointed up a deeper form of cultural confusion. You can't tell the subversive wheat pastes from the server ads anymore. And you can't tell the difference between RTMark and Charles Schwab.

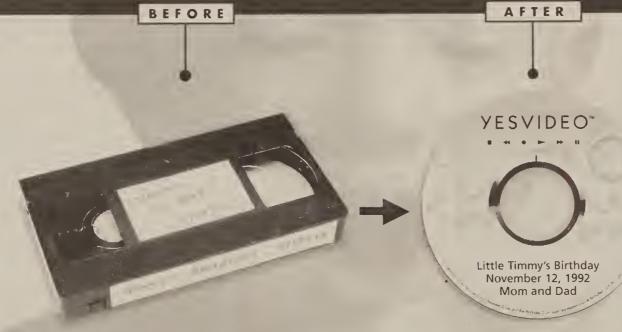
f whined about all this to my pal Jeff, who swore, "I'm gonna go out and wheat-paste over all those nines for you. It's my personal project." It was a cool idea, and I took some comfort in imagining the results. Maybe a bunch of 666s? Still, it seemed like another iteration of the same problem; wheat-pasting over other wheat pastes; posting Web sites that resemble other Web sites in order to

It reminded me of the end of that Douglas Adams novel, where the most brilliant computer ever made reveals that the answer to the question "What is the meaning of life?" is the non sequiturial "42."

I'm surrounded by 99999, and still there's no meaning in sight. ❖

Annalce Newitz (99999@techsploitation.com) is a surly media nerd who 99999 in the afternoon, and then 99999 some more. Her column also appears in Metro, Silicon Valley's weekly newspaper.

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by kara knafelc

Lake on the rez

uring my desert childhood, playground taunts about lake monsters were common. The threat of a water baby in your bed was the equivalent of a curse, and a serpent lurked in the shadow of every toilet seat. It may seem like odd talk for dry land, but we were taking our cues from a body of water on the nearby Paiute reservation that had become the sacred site of both myth and controversy.

Pyramid Lake lies 35 miles north of my hometown, Reno, and was once part of ancient Lake Lahontan, a vast alkaline pool that covered a good portion of what is now northern Nevada and California. The meltdown of the glaciers and the desiccation of the Great Basin caused Lahontan's extinction, but its deepest "puddle," Pyramid, retained enough water to become its own noble sheet of green water.

The lake's hues were first described in writing by Capt. John Fremont, a soldier and surveyor whose broader undertaking was the creation and export of propa-

The Pathfinder

to envision the

lake as a stretch

tribe's desert

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ganda about the American West. Fremont had married the daughter of Thomas Hart Benton, a Missouri senator now remembered for promoting manifest destiny and for lending his name to his grandnephew, the renowned 20th-century regionalist painter. Benton hoped his son-in-law's inky boosterism, aided by the substantial literary skills of the senator's daughter, Jessie, might inspire immigrants to enact his expansionist dream. And Fremont did his best to create prose that would lure the hopeful to new homes on the range.

We'll never really know if Fremont, like Benton, believed that fate could be made flesh. But in 1844, as he reached the cusp of a desert ridge in the company of 24 men and a howitzer, one thing was certain: the Pathfinder, as Fremont would

eventually be known, wanted folks east of the Mississippi to envision the Painte tribe's desert lake as a stretch of beachfront property.

"It broke upon our eyes like the ocean," he wrote, and "the shore was rocky
— which reminded us of the sea." If these oceanic musings weren't enough to provoke resettlement, there was also the uncanny figure of a tufa formation that Fremont described as communicating "the exact outline of the Great Pyramid of Cheops." Egyptian splendor, ocean views, freshwater fishin' — a little something for everyone. This was the stuff beliefs were made of.

Unfortunately, the Paiutes were not prepared for the white man's fantasies. The omens (the men, the gun, the pen) were inauspicious, but it's difficult to fault the elders for failing to predict the danger of the colonial theater or the brutality of the American scene. Especially when the white men of Victorian Nevada kept telling them love was another word for mother and not that w-a-t-e-r spelled war.

But so it was: in 1844, the Pathfinder; in 1849, the gold rush; in 1859, the Comstock Lode; in another year, the battle. Immigrants wanted land and cattle and homes; they needed irrigation, which meant the diversion of water from Pyramid's source, the Truckee River. White settlements swelled, tensions rose, and finally, in 1860, a renegade band of northern Paiutes operating outside the jurisdiction of Chief Winnemucca raided and burned a whiskey shop. Peace treaties that had thwarted eye-for-an-eye justice fell to the dust, and men came together with guns. The Paiutes won the first battle against a ragtag regiment of volunteers but were eventually overwhelmed by a larger army. The Pyramid Lake reservation was signed into existence by Ulysses S. Grant in 1874.

Today if you head east on 1-80 and merge onto Highway 445 toward Nixon, you'll come to an overlook with a sign that tells this story. In the distance is Anaho Island, one of the last breeding grounds for white pelicans, and beyond that, the lake's eponymous pyramid. Little else memorializes this saga except a set of audio tapes that sit mostly untranscribed in the basement of the University of Nevada library. They're the lifework of Nevada geologist Margaret Wheat, who dabbled in earthquakes and ichthyosaurs and the shape of history. One of many things she discovered with the help of a secondhand wire-spool tape recorder was that by the middle of the 20th century, Painte stories had begun

Nini'i, the clusive water babies I'd dreamed of on the jungle gym, no longer ventured from lake to shore. In their place came rotten angels, who, one Painte woman noted, stank of dead sheep and stood with dirty faces on certain pathways. But perhaps the most telling moments in Wheat's collection are summed up as a recurring assertion on the part of Paiute storytellers: "This is fact, not legend." Which makes good sense. After all, it is the Paiutes who know their lake really looks nothing like the sea. ❖

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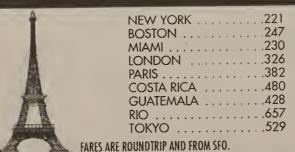
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Glass act

By Paul Reidinger

lass suggests itself as a subtle theme before you first set foot in Bacar, the long-awaited SoMa venture of Eos partners Arnold Wong and Debbie Zachareas. There are the elaborate multilight windows, set into the building's brick façade as if it were a cathedral or a 19th-century railway station. The panes glint darkly into the evening light, elegant beacons to hungry and curious patrons hurrying along a warehouse-lined stretch of Brannan Street that still seems quite desolate after dark.

And there is, inside, just beyond the host's podium, a wall of frosted-glass cells, each holding a bottle of wine. It's a bit like a honeycomb built by giant oenophilic bees, and - apart from being visually stunning — it reinterprets and reinforces the restaurant's name. "Bacar" means "wine goblet" in Latin: glass as medium between wine and wine drinker.

If you like Eos, you'll probably love Bacar, though not necessarily for the same reasons. The new restaurant is not simply a grander iteration of its Cole Valley forebear. As the wall of wine bottles suggests, wine is at least

as big a deal at Bacar as at Eos. (Each check, incidentally, carries a pithy quote from the father of American wine drinkers, Thomas Jefferson: "Good wine is a necessity of life for me.") But where Eos is hard, chilly, postmodern, loud, Bacar is spacious, plump, muted, warm, soaring. Eos is fusion cooking; Bacar a kind of global American cuisine. And, perhaps most important, while Eos is a neighborhood restaurant that's gained a larger following, Bacar clearly means to be a player from the beginning in the city's uppermost stratum of restaurants.

It is, for one thing, built on a big, American scale, like one of those rear-wheel-drive land yachts your dad owned in the 1960s. One flight of stairs below street level lies a wine lounge, set with enveloping sofas and low tables that imply an almost Japanese intimacy. On the main floor is a bar, whose café tables offer full service and are a welcome option if you drift in without a reservation, as we did one bustling evening. The bulk of the main floor is taken up by a spacious dining room, bounded at one end by an open kitchen agleam with stainless-steel appurtenances

and suffused throughout with just the right amount of noise, which, like smoke, seems to waft harmlessly into the broad vault overhead — toward the mezzanine, perhaps, a destination approached but never reached.

Contemporary restaurant design is apparently passing through a phase of multilevel chic (pity the poor waitstaff), but, as Bacar shows, designers also have gotten the message that louder is not necessarily better. From such little touches as maintaining a decent separation between tables, to larger ones such as using sound-absorbent flooring material, the designers (Zack/ de Vito Architecture) have managed noise as gracefully as they have glass and light and traffic flow.

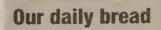
But to Wong falls responsibility for the food, and as at Eos, he is eminently up to the task. Although the menu is big and sprawling, with something for everyone and influences lifted from everywhere, it nonetheless achieves a kind of hearty unity. Inside Bacar's best dishes - and there are a lot of them — beats a rustic heart, but the surfaces have been given a discreet urban honing. A simple steamed artichoke (\$7), for instance, arrives with a dish of lemon aioli on the side. Battered, deepfried smelts (\$9) are accompanied by slices of battered, deep-fried lemon. And a length of curvaceously sturdy semolina flat bread (\$12) rises like a wind-rippled sail from a plate of caramelized Sicilian onions, mesclun, and a chunk of brie cheese.

Some of Wong's flavor combinations are a bit odd, in particular a pizza (\$12) topped with briscole cheese, fennel seed, arugula, and — the joker — red flame grapes. Pretty sweet for a pizza. They would have seemed less out of place in the bouillabaisse (\$23), a hefty bowl of clams, mussels, prawns, and whitefish in a sauce of leeks, diced tomatoes, and pastis, whose pungently sweet licorice perfume is a unique signature.

Our only other complaint was that, one evening, the mushroom pot pie (\$14) was far too hot to eat. We had to puncture its lovely pastry crust and let it exhale the oven's heat for a few minutes, while we busied ourselves with a plate of gnocchi (\$14), stuffed with kabocha squash and tossed with broccoli rabe and a rich, velvety, diet-busting parmesan cream. (The kitchen sometimes adds bread crumbs to the sauce to make a kind of gratin.)

And did I mention the chicken confit (\$18) was, though tasty, a wee bit dry, as chicken (even chicken cooked in its own fat) is wont to be? Still, it was nothing a little sip of wine couldn't fix. 🌣

Bacar. 448 Brannan (at Third St.), S.F. (415) 904-4100. Dinner: daily, 5:30 p.m.-1 a.m. American Express, MasterCard, Visa. Comfortable noise level. Wheelchair accessible.



Without Reservations

If you occasionally find yourself missing the dearly departed Tassajara Bakery in Cole Valley (as I sometimes do), and if you don't quite approve of Citizen Cake's dandified, city-slicker reincarnation in the Civic Center (as I don't), then you are ripe for a visit to Azrimendi Bakery (1331 Ninth Ave. at Irving, S.F. 415-566-3117). The three-month-old Inner Sunset operation can't really replace Tassajara or the original Citizen Cake, but it does have something of the aura that made them special.

Maybe it's the interior — all those sunny butter walls, the daylit airiness, the broad, handsome work tables with their butcher-block tops. You would never guess that the space once belonged to a photo-developing shop. Now it's in the hands of workerowned and operated Azrimendi, whose original bakery opened in Oakland in 1997 (under the auspices of the Cheese Board). Although the two bakeries share a name - and a reputation for selling no bread but sourdough, in various cheese-and-oliveladen guises - they are more confederates than members of a chain, free to operate in their local environments as suits their needs.

This is good news for the new Azrimendi, which faces substantially higher operating costs (i.e., rent) than its East Bay sibling. Whereas the older Azrimendi concentrates almost entirely on its retail business, there is already talk at the San Francisco bakery about the possibility of selling bread wholesale to restaurants. (The bakery already sells some bread to Avenue 9, the California bistro just down the block.)

Tassajara drifted in that direction too. It began by baking bread for Greens, but by the end you could buy it at Safeway — though of course when Just Desserts bought Tassajara, most of the baking was moved from Cole Street to Just Desserts' central facility in Bayshore. Is there a moral for Aznimendi?

The mole knows: Forget "The Mole," that idiotic reality-TV show. We have our very own mole, who tells us that JohnFrank is getting a new pastry chef, Claire Legas, lately of Absinthe. And that 3Ring, the circus-themed Provençal restaurant on Valencia at 21st, has closed for an "indeterminate" amount of time. (If it were a TV show, we'd know exactly what that meant.) The restaurant's phone still rings, which suggests something short of total extinction. If you're interested in the latter, ring up Cafe 180, which only months ago took over the Bull's Texas Cafe space, with a chef from Masa's. All that remains is the recorded voice announcing a disconnected number. And John Proctor (who's worked at Hawthome Lane and Le Colonial) is now managing mc2

Paul Reidinger PaulR@sfbg.com



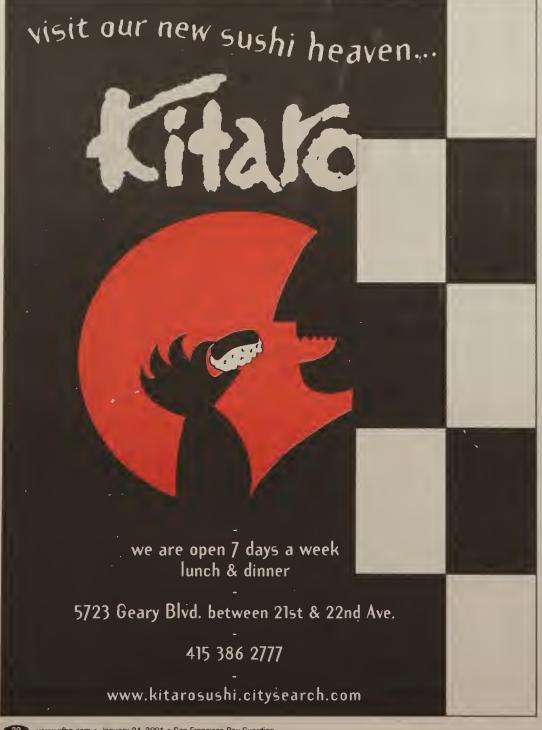
A cut above: A selection of high-end champagne adorns a table in Bacar's upstairs wine lounge





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-SF Chronicle





Consider the sandwich

t was Bink's birthday, so we all went to eat where Golf Clubs wanted to go, Golf Clubs being Bink's best friend and my sister Car Parts's longtime boyfriend. The problem was that Gravy's was closed on account of they ran out of chickens or lard, or some such disaster, so going to my favorite place for Bink's birthday was out of the question.

Binko's favorite food is sushi.

Golf Clubs is from Ohio. So are me and Binko and lots of other people, but Golf Clubs is hard-core Ohioan: still lives there (for example), doesn't say much, eats mostly meat loaf, and roots for the Indians and the Browns. He did try some sushi on the day before Bink's binkday, for lunch, so you have to hand it to him, even though he didn't like it. "The humps are better than the rolls," I believe was his exact assessment, "but it'll take more than a month out here before I start wanting to eat either."

Golf Clubs likes garlic. He only had a couple more nights in town, so we went where he wanted to go: the Stinking Rose. Don't worry, I'm not going to review it, but that was where we ate for Bink's binkday. Bink likes garlic. Hell, who doesn't like garlic? I love garlic, but I'd managed to avoid the Stinking Rose for 11 years because, although I love garlic, I disagree with people who say you can never have too much garlic. Yeah you can.

Take chickens. Chickens taste great, and garlic helps them taste even better. But if you go overboard with it, then all you can taste is the garlic and not the chickens. At which point you may as well be eating just plain garlic. Which is fine, if that's all you want. But I want chickens. Call me crazy, but I'd rather eat at Popeye's than the Stinking Rose. Especially if Gravy's doesn't have their shit together, supplieswise. My philosophy is that you can never have too many

That's why I ordered the rabbit: 'cause I was afraid if I got chickens at a place like that, I wouldn't taste them, which would suck. The rabbit was pretty damn good, turns out, and there wasn't even too much garlic in it. Whereas the one of us who ordered chicken cacciatore was still barfing as of yesterday. Not necessarily on account of food poisoning. It could've been a viro-coincidence.

Anyway, since this isn't a review of the Stinking Rose, let me tell you what those of us who weren't still barfing had for dinner yesterday: pho. At Lee's, this great little hole-in-the-wall Vietnamese place in the Richmond, Eighth and Clement.

We'd intended to have sandwiches as well, because I'd heard that Lee's sandwiches were something special, which Vietnamese sandwiches generally are. But ... no bread. They'd sold out of their rolls at lunch, the waitressperson said. They always sold out of rolls at lunch. What were we doing wanting sandwiches for dinner? (She didn't say that last part, but the implication was there.)

Well, not to worry; there were 50, 60 things on the menu that weren't sandwiches or pho, if anyone didn't want pho, and most of us did. The sandwiches would have made nice kickers, but then these were some mighty big bowls of soup. And they were only \$3.75.

There was a solid wad of noodles at the bottom of my bowl. And there were thin slices of really rare beef on top. The beef broth was delicious, especially once the jalapeño slices from the add-your-own dish got to work on it. Bean sprouts, fresh basil, a squeeze of lemon. Wally wally, as the saying goes. Soup!

I felt bad for the dissenters. My brother Phenomenon got barbecued pork and imperial rolls over rice noodles (\$3.95), and good as that was (I tasted a lot of it), it wasn't pho.

Pho is soup.

It was cold out.

The other dissenter was of course Golf Clubs himself, who had to have Number 54: "B.B.Q. pork chop with steam egg meat loaf" (\$3.95), I think because of the words "meat" and "loaf." Good words, I agree. But then there was the word "egg" to consider. See, this wasn't meat loaf with some egg in it so much as "eggmeat" loaf, a quiche-ish wad of eggs and glass noodles and I'm sure some other stuff, but I tasted it, and I don't remember tasting meat. It wasn't bad though, and the pork chop was great, but it wasn't very big.

So then Golf Clubs had to order something else, and he wanted beef stew, but they were out of that, too, which didn't bother him as much as the sandwiches. He was still stewing over those sandwiches; he didn't care what time of day it was. "You can't not have sandwiches," he kept saying, "not if it's in the name of the place." Which it was. *

Lee's Sandwiches and Deli. 294 Eighth Ave. (at Clement), S.F. (415) 387-5883. Daily, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Takeout available. Credit cards not accepted. Wheelchair accessible.



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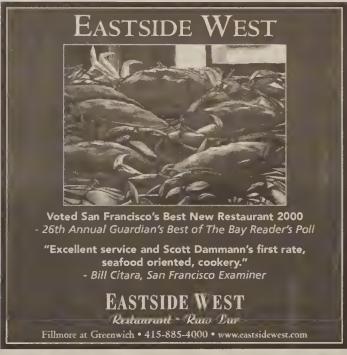
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table ready

by stephanie rosenbaum

17 reasons

m I the only reader who'd like to slap Saveur magazine around a little bit? Now, don't get me wrong: as food magazines go, it's one of the best, rigorously researched, with an obsession for authenticity and an emphasis on fast-disappearing cultural history. But somehow this year's annual 'Saveur 100" best-of issue really frosted me. Maybe it was the editors' relentlessly fabulous globe-trotting junkets. Possibly it was page of slumming "supermarket favorites" — as if editor Coleman Andrews, a man for whom there is authentic French food, and then, many rungs down, there is everything else — really sits around snarfing Duncan Hines brownies and popping open rolls of Pillsbury biscuit dough.

But we'd like to think it was really just hometown loyalty. Out of 100 best-ofs, the Bay Area warranted only three mentions. Well, we're not taking that lying down. So here it is, the Table Ready 17: just a few of our favorite foodie reasons for eating around the Bay Area. Bon appétit!

- 1. June Taylor's Jam Bar. No one makes better jam than Oakland's June Taylor. But don't take our word for it; instead, grab a plastic spoon, and dig into the dozens of tasting jars she sets up at the Berkeley and San Francisco Ferry Plaza
- 2. Dungeness crabs for Christmas. Let Tiny Tim have his roast goose; here on the edge of the Pacific, we'll celebrate the holidays with a hot towel and a
- 3. Hog Island's alfresco oysters. Drive up to Marshall, grab a dozen "sweetwaters," and plunk down to shuck and slurp or crack and grill at a picnic table overlooking placid Tomales Bay.
- 4. Clams in black bean sauce at Yuet Lee. Whether it's 6 p.m. or 2 a.m., look for the bright green façade and you won't go wrong.
- 5. A beer, a dog, and thou: if the dog's from Rosamunde Sausage Grill and the brew's pumped at Toranado, we can't imagine a better way to blow off a Sunday afternoon, especially with the Niners on the tee-vee.
- 6. The return of Memphis Minnie's. Third time's a charm, because in a just world, brisket this good doesn't just fade away.
- 7. The return of the Original U.S. Restaurant to North Beach. Because gentrification doesn't always win, not if it forgets the cannoli.
- 8. Marquita Farms's newsletter (www.marquita.com). Get the real scoop on life as a small farmer in Andrew Griffith's always insightful newsletter in your e-mail on Thursday, then head over to buy his awesome organic produce on Saturday mornings at the Ferry Plaza farmers' market.
- 9. Monterey Market. The Berkeley Bowl may get the kudos, but the smaller, more personal Monterey Market has the love — and the banana blossoms, baby ginger, and fresh galangal - that keeps both chefs and home cooks inspired, no matter what their style or ethnicity.
- 10. Bread and Chocolate, by Fran Gage (Sasquatch Books). From organic apple growers in the Anderson Valley to her hairdresser's family of ace tamale makers, baker Fran Gage knows (and writes) about dozens of people who care about food in the Bay Area. And the recipes really work.
- 11. City Discounts. Short on glamour but long on stock, City Discounts packs every kind of kitchen gear for way less than you'd pay at Sur La Table or Williams-Sonoma.
- 12. Las Palmas's homemade potato chips. Why are they so good? Because they fry them in lard. 'Nuff said.
- 13. Wild blackberry bushes and Meyer lemon trees. Why buy when you can pick? Look in your own backyard, take a hike up Bernal Hill, or make friends with your neighbors to find these sweet golden fruits and thorny treasures
- growing free for the foraging.

 14. Haig's Delicacies on Clement Street. From Lebanese pomegranate molasses to Indian lime pickle, Haig's goes around the world in one internationally crammed shop.
- 15. The return of Bellwether Farm's Carmody cheese. Rich, buttery, slightly tangy, made by a small cheese-making concern up in Valley Ford. They stopped making it for a while, but now it's back. Picnic-food heaven, and available at Artisan Cheese in Pacific Heights.
- 16. How does anyone go on the Atkins diet in San Francisco? We'd trade all the Duncan Hines at Safeway for Grace Baking's Fred bread; artichoke bread from Archangeli's in Pescadero; Artisan's multigrain loaf; Acme's pumpernickel rye-raisin "rabbit" rolls; and Bay Village Baking's sesame sourdough.
- 17. Happy hour at El Rio. Writes a friend, "How can anyone not love Friday nights at El Rio, hel-lo, free oysters, and all the Christmas lights, lemon trees, live music, and whatever that crazy drink special is, to drink and eat to your heart's content." Let the dot-com betties line up outside Blondie's; we'll let El Rio be our dive any day. *

Eat here now

The Bay Guardian welcomes you to our dining section, a detailed list by neighborhood of some great places to grab a bite, hang out with friends, or impress the ones you love with thorough knowledge of this delectable city. These listings are compiled from previous restaurant reviews and Best of the Bay and Insider's Guide selections.

The skinny Restaurants are reviewed by Dan Leone (D.L.), Paul Reidinger (P.R.), Derk Richardson (D.R.), Stephanie Rosenbaum (S.R.), Eric Stephan (E.S.), Miriam Wolf (M.W.), or staff. All area codes are 415 and all restaurants are wheelchair accessible, except where noted

Deciphering the codes Meals served are indicated by B (breakfast), BR (Saturday and/or Sunday brunch), L (lunch), and D (dinner); credit cards accepted are indicated by AE (American Express), DC (Diners Club), DISC (Discover), MC (MasterCard), and V (Visa).

Price range

¢ less than \$7 per entrée

\$ \$7-\$12

\$\$ \$13-\$20

\$\$\$ more than \$20

Critic's choice

Eastside West fits right into the Cow Hollow scene. It's comfortably upscale, with first-rate service and stylishly relaxed Cal-American food. (P.R., 1/01) 4154 Fillmore (at Greenwich), S.F. 885-4000. California/ American, BR/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Recently reviewed

Le Jardin feels a bit like a second-story beer hall, but the chef is a Slanted Door alumnus, and his Vietnamese food shows promising glints of that experience. The dining room can be a bit drafty but does afford good views of the still-seedy Polk Street scene. (P.R., 1/01) 1160 Polk (at Sutter), S.F. 885-1378. Vietnamese, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Scenic India will slake your craving for south Asian food, with fine tandoori items, strong variations on tikka masala, and plenstrong variations of taxe master, and pier-ty of tasty vegetable dishes. If only Mom's had been so good. (P.R., 1/01) 532 Valencia (at 16th St.), S.F. 621-7226. Indian, D, \$, AE/ DC/DISC/MC/V.

Wasabi and Ginger looks to become a popu lar — and long-running — neighborhood spot. The sushi is first rate, but the great stuff on the menu is cooked: buttery-tender beef short ribs and a seafood-miso soup served in a teapot. (P.R., 1/01) 2299 Van Ness (at Vallejo), S.F. 345-1368. Japanese, L/

On the cheap: noodles

Nirvana True to its name, pan-Asian noodle house Nirvana offers a peaceful respite from busy Castro streets. Although noodles make up the bulk of the menu, there's also a list of entrées that range from stir-fried jicama to grilled lemongrass chicken. (S.R., 6/98) 544 Castro (at 18th St.), S.F. 861-2226. Pan-Asian, L/D, \$, MC/V.

Pomelo The chefs in this itsy-bitsy restaurant serve up big portions of Asian- and Italian-inspired noodle dishes. If you need something quick, cheap, and fresh, pop in here. Lunch is less crowded than dinner. (Liz Hille, 6/00) 92 Judah (at 6th Ave.), S.F. 731-6175. Noodles, L/D, \$, cash only.

ZAO Noodle Bar manages the seemingly impossible: the food's good, cheap, fresh; the service is friendly; there's an inexpensive parking lot half a block away. (P.R., 8/99) 2406 California (at Fillmore), S.F. 345-8088. Asian, L/D, \$\Pi\$, MC/V.

Downtown, Embarcadero

B44 brings Daniel Olivella's Catalan cooking to al fresco–friendly Belden Place. The salt cod-studded menu is stronger in first than main dishes. Frenchy desserts. (P.R., 3/00) 44 Belden Place (near Pine), S.F. 986-6287. Catalan, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Bix radiates an unmistakable aura of American power and luxury, Jazz Age style. The food is simply splendid, from such traditional dishes as chicken hash to California-cuisine items such as crispy fillet of King salmon on a bed of heirloom cherry toma-toes and lemon crème fraiche. (P.R., 8/99) 56 Gold (at Sansome), S.F. 433-6300. American, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Boulevard This creation of hot chef Nancy Oakes has a casually elegant art nouveau decor by designer Pat Kuleto. The food, too, is hot, including on one night a terrific grilled ahi tuna with a gingery salsa and shoestring potatoes. (Staff) 1 Mission (at Steuart), S.F. 543-6084. American, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Chaya Brasserie brings a taste of L.A.'s preen-and-be-seen culture to the water-front. The Japanese-influenced French food is mostly French, and very expensive, while a handsome sushi bar tucked into a far corner offers great stuff at good value. (P.R., 4/00)
132 the Embarcadero (at Mission), S.F. 7778688. Fusion, D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.
Cosmopolitan Cafe is certainly cosmopolitan but hardly a cafe. Its high arched ceiling and

abundance of rich wood paneling make it seem like a huge Pullman car. The New American menu emphasizes heartiness, from a huge juicy pork chop with spätzle and roasted zinfandel onions to strips of rainbow trout served on a very substantial rock shrimp hash. A mixed-berry shortcake is a fine twist on an old dessert standard. (P.R., 9/00) 121 Spear (at Howard), S.F. 543-4001. American, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V. Elisabeth Daniel combines, like a Swiss watch, elegance, precision, and beauty, and the result is one of the best restaurants in the city. The food is haute but limber French, the interior design gracefully muted, the service of the highest order. Extremely pricey. (P.R., 3/00) 550 Washington (at Montgomery), S.F. 397-6129. French, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

Fifth Floor returns George Morrone to the city's restaurant scene in high style — literaily. The restaurant, on the fifth floor of the Palomar Hotel, feels plushly art deco. The food hovers somewhere between hearty and lavish, ranging from roasted baby chicken with bay and fingerling potatoes to poached Maine lobster with white corn and vermouth essence. (P.R., 10/99) 12 Fourth St. (at Market), S.F. 348-1555. California, D,

\$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

First Crush goes the average wine bar one better: it's also got an excellent full-service better: it's also got an excellent full-service restaurant in the basement — a stylish grotto done up in hues of grape and sun. The food marches from the kitchen like a well-trained brass band; the flavors are big and direct, to match all those California wines. (P.R., 4/99) 101 Cyril Magnin (at Ellis), S.F. 982-7874. California, D, \$\$, AE/DISC/MC/V.

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— beamed ceilings, blazing fireplace, and
that famously gesticulative Greek hospitality. Chef Jean Alberti's food alternates smoothly between classic dishes and California-Hellenic turns, such as grilled tuna with oregano pesto. (P.R., 5/99) 200 Jackson (at Front), S.F. 981-0983. Greek, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/

Kyo-Ya may not be *the* best Japanese restaurant in the city, but it's certainly one of them. Elegantly padded surroundings, sublime sushi, and a wide selection of cooked dishes attract an international mercantile class. Lovely all the same. Expensive too. (P.R., 11/99) 2 New Mont-gomery (at Market), S.F. 512-1111. Japan-ese, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V. MoMo's San Francisco Grill The new Ameri-

can food at MoMo's is surprisingly excellent (if it's been a while since you've had maca-roni and cheese, have it here, with cubes of Black Forest ham), and the interior decoration is opulent, with prairie-style furniture, wood trim, dark-green carpeting, and dim-pled leather upholstery on the banquettes. (P.R., 11/98) 760 Second St. (at King), S.F. 227-8660. American, BR/L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Paragon has left behind its sports-bar, frat-ty Marina incarnation to become, near the Giants' new ballpark, a stylish haven of gas-tronomic Americana. The food ranges from tronomic Americana. The food ranges from burgers to foie gras, touching lots of points in between. Something for everyone in a strikingly vertical space. (P.R., 5/00) 701 Second St. (at King), S.F. 537-9020. American, L/D, \$\$, MC/V.

Pastis Gerald Hirigoyen's restaurant near Levi Strauss Plaza has the goofy charm of a modern art museum but as a Finnedae his

modern art museum but, as at Fringale, his other spot, the menu gives light-handed refinement to the lusty dishes of *la France pro*fonde. Hirogoyen, who's from Bayonne, in the French Basque country, also favors the occasional Basque touch, such as stuffed piquillo peppers. (P.R., 4/99) 1015 Battery (at Green), S.F. 391-2555. French, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Ponzu opened early in 2000 but is likely to be remembered as one of the year's best new restaurants. Its menu ranges across south Asia with stylish agility — tangy Vietnamese carpaccio, Mongolian lamb loin, cilantro-charged monster noodles — at strikingly reawarm, bright, and modern without going over the top. (P.R., 2/00) 401 Taylor (at O'Farrell), S.F. 775-7979. Asian, B/D, \$\$, MC/V.

Postrio Wolfgang Puck's venerable outpost in the city still sparkles. Despite the drama of the setting, the food receives loving attention. Like an opera singer, the kitchen hits notes low and high with equal aplomb. Arty desserts. (P.R., 3/99) 545 Post (at Mason), S.F. 776-7825. California, B/BR/L/D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Tadich Grill is the city's oldest restaurant (150 years and counting), and it still packs 'em in, specializing in seafood and most anything grilled. (Staff) 240 California (at Battery), S.F. 391-1849. Grill, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V. Tlaloc rises like a multistorey loft on its Financial District Lane, the better to accommodate the hordes of suits crowding in for a noontime burrito-and-salsa fix. They serve a mean pipián burrito, and decent fish tacos. (P.R., 10/00) 525 Commercial (at Sansome), S.F. 981-7800. Mexican, L/D, ¢, AE/MC/V. Tu Lan has few luxuries except the food, which is a luxury to the wealthiest palate. Raw foods converge in salads and stir-fries that'll leave you wondering why your own cooking doesn't look as easy and taste as good. (Staff) 8 Sixth St. (at Market), S.F. 626-0927. Vietnamese, L/D, ¢.

North Beach, Chinatown
Da Flora advertises Venetian specialties, but
you won't find much in the way of seafood
or risotto here. The pastas are tours de force of balance and composition, while notes from Central Europe (veal in paprika cream sauce) and points east (whiffs of nutneg) creep into other fine dishes. (P.R., 4/99) 701 Columbus (at Filbert), S.F. 981-4664. Italian, D, \$\$, MC/V.

Continued on page 34

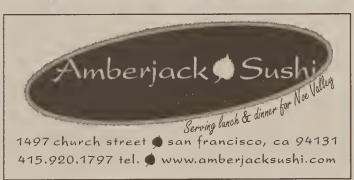
















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listings

Eat Here Now

Enrico's Sidewalk Cafe remains a classic see-and-be-seen part of the North Beach scene. The full bar and extensive menu of tapas, pizzas, pastas, and grills make dropping in at any hour a real treat. (S.R., 5/98) 504 Broad-way (at Kearny), S.F. 982-6223. Italian, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

House of Nanking never fails to garner raves from restaurant reviewers and Bay Guardian readers alike. Chinatown ambience, great food, good prices. (Best Ofs, 1994) 919 Kearny (at Columbus), S.F. 421-1429. Chi-

Maykadeh Persian Cuisine is a great date restaurant, classy but not too pricey, and there are lots of veggie options both for ap-petizers and entrées. Khoresht bademjan was a delectable, deep-red stew of tomato and eggplant with a rich, sweet, almost chocolaty undertone. (E.S., 2/97) 470 Green (at Grant), S.F. 362-8286. Persian, L/D, \$,

Michelangelo Cafe There's always a line outside this quintessential North Beach restaurant, but it's well worth the sidewalk time for Michelangelo's excellent Italian, served in a bustling, family-style atmosphere. The seafood dishes are recommended; approach the postprandial Gummi Bears at your own risk. (Staff) 597 Columbus (at Union), S.F. 86-4058. Italian, D, \$\$

Moose's is famous for the Mooseburger — an estimable patty of ground beef with fine fries — but the rest of the menu is comfortably sophisticated, with touches from all around the Mediterranean. The crowd is moneyed but not showy and definitely not nouveau. (P.R., 10/99) 1652 Stockton (at Union), S.F. 989-7800. American, BR/L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Zax belongs to the group of top-flight mid-1990s neighborhood restaurants that were and are the best places to eat California cui sine. From a goat-cheese soufflé with apple fennel slaw to braised lamb shank with pancetta-scented white beans, the food fresh, precise, imaginative but not too — is the star. (P.R., 7/00) 2330 Taylor (at Colum-bus), S.F. 563-6266. California, D, \$\$, MC/V.

SoMa

Asiasf Priscilla, Queen of the Desert meets Asian-influenced tapas at this amusingly surreal lounge. The inexpensive fusion food comes and goes (best bets: beef burger, spicy minced chicken), but the drag-queen burthat's a show in itself. (P.R., 9/98) 201 Ninth St. (at Howard), S.F. 255-2742. Fusion, D, \$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Azie Chef Jody Denton's menu is spit-andpolish, from a dazzling plate of nine bites (including a fabulous crab pot de crème) to such miraculous sauces as the tangerinecurry number that accompanies a batter-fried whole Thai snapper. (P.R., 1/00) 826 Folsom (at Fourth St.), S.F. 538-0918. Fusion, D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Big Nate's Barbecue is pretty stark inside mostly linoleum arranged around a pair of massive brick ovens. But the hot sauce will make you sneeze. (P.R., 7/99) 1665 Folsom (at 12th St.), S.F. 861-4242. Barbecue, L/D,

Bizou Chef-owner Loretta Keller's Provençal-influenced menu is big on flavor, from a pissaladière like flat bread topped with caramelized onions, cheese, and olives to grilled duck breast with slices of roasted peach. This restaurant is sure of itself; there is no overreaching. (P.R., 9/99) 598 Fourth St. (at Brannan), S.F. 543-2222. California, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

Le Charm is the perfect spot to settle into a padded banquette and order wine and lamb chops and lovely little crème caramels. (S.R., 2/98) 315 Fifth St. (at Folsom), S.F. 546-6128. French, L/D, \$\$, MC/V

Enzo's is worth finding, not just for the credible tiramisu (enhanced with raspberries) but also for the rest of the predictably zesty menu and the eminently fair prices (P.R., 9/98) 510 Brannan (at Fourth St.), S.F.

974-3696. Italian,L/D, \$, AE/MC/V. Hawthorne Lane If you want to feel virtuously cultured and coddled at the same time, take a spin through the galleries at SF-MOMA, then duck in for a late lunch at

Hawthorne Lane, with its English-storybook decor. (S.R., 2/98) 22 Hawthorne Lane (between Second and Third Sts., at Howard), S.E. 777-9779, California, L/D, \$\$\$, MC/V.

Left Coast Cafe brings a breath of California freshness to the otherwise slightly antiseptic atrium of the Dolby Building. Healthy sandwiches (tuna, hummus), a decent Caesar, good mom-style cookies and brownies. (P.R., 10/00) 999 Brannan (at 9th), S.F. 522-0232. California, B/L, ¢, cash only.• LuLu defines the modern California restau-

rant. Many dishes acquire a heart-swelling smokiness from the oven — a plate of portobello mushrooms, say, with soft polenta and mascarpone butter. (P.R., 7/99) 816 Folsom (at Fourth St.), S.F. 495-5775. Mediterranean, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

Maya is like a good French restaurant serving elegant food that tastes Mexican. There are unforgettable tastes here: corn kernels

are unforgettable tastes here: corn kernels steeped in vanilla, lovely grilled pork tenderloin served with a pipian sauce of pumpkin-seed and tamarind. (P.R., 5/99) 303 Second St. (at Folsom), S.F. 543-6709. Mexican, L/D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

\$\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Sushi Groove South continues the westward march of hipsterdom through SoMa. The food — traditional sushi augmented by quietly stylish fusion dishes — is spectacular. The setting — a candlelit grotto abrim with black-clad young — is charged with high romance. (PR., 12/00) 1516 Folsom (at 11th), S.F. 503-1950. Japanese/sushi, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Nob Hill, Russian Hill Bistro Zarė, Hoss Zarė's latest venture, fea-tures a menu of herb-flecked sunshine that amounts to a tour of the eastern Mediter ranean, from the signature arancini - saf fron risotto balls stuffed with Gorgonzola to a Greek salad dressed with a creamy garlic to a Greek salad dressed with a creamy game vinaigrette to salmon cakes delicately scent-ed with curry. (PR., 6/99) 1507 Polk (at Cal-ifornia), S.F. 775-4304. Mediterranean, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

\$\$, AE/MC/V.

Crustacean is famous for its roast Dungeness crab, but the truly addictive item on the menu here is the plate of demure-looking garlic noodles. The rest of the "Euro/Asian" menu is refreshingly Asian in emphasis.

(P.R., 2/99) 1475 Polk (at California), S.F. 776-2722. Fusion, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Yabbies Coastal Kitchen There's lots to shuck and swallow at the raw bar, but don't miss tropical seafood cocktails (like the crab

with mango and lemongrass) piled glam-orously into martini glasses. Splendid porci-ni-seared sea bass, grilled sailfish, and scallops with truffled mushroom salad. Save room for the hot fudge sundae. (S.R., 3/97) 2237 Polk (at Green), S.F. 474-4088. California, D, \$\$, MC/V.

Tarzuela's rich selection of truly delicious tapas and full meals make it a neighborhood favorite. (Staff) 2000 Hyde (at Union), S.F. 346-0800. Tapas, D, \$\$, DISC/MC/V.

Civic Center, Tenderloin

Ananda Fuara serves a distinctly Indian-in-fluenced vegetarian menu in the sort of calm surroundings that are increasingly the exception to the rule. Service is friendly and swift, prices low, and you can get dal with practically everything. (P.R., 2/00) 1298
Market (at Ninth St.), S.F. 621-1994. Vegetarian, L/D, ¢, cash only.

Canto do Brasil The draw here is lusty yeo-

man cooking, Brazilian style, at beguilingly low prices. The tropically cerulean interior design, with fat comfy chairs, ceiling fans, and lots of plants enhances the illusion of sitting at a beach café. (P.R., 10/98) 41 Franklin (at Oak), S.F. 626-8727. Brazilian,

Cordon Bleu has huge portions, tiny prices, and a hoppin' location right next to the Lumiere Theatre. The special here is five-spice roasted chicken, half a bird for \$5.15 with country cabbage salad and a big mountain of meat sauce-smothered rice. (D.L., 4/97) 1574 California (at Polk), S.F. 673-5637. Vietnamese, L/D, ¢.

Indigo serves up good California cuisine in a pleasantly stylish setting, A great presymphony choice. (S.R., 8/97) 687 McAllister (at Gough), S.F. 673-9353. California, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Jardinière combines an aggressively elegant Pat Kuleto design with the calm confidence

of Traci des Jardins's cooking. The best dishor Iraci des Jardins's cooking. The best dishess — foie gras with pear gastrique and brioche, a dessert of mascarpone-stuffed crepes and sliced plums sautéed in muscat — are unforgettable. (P.R., 11/98) 300 Grove (at Franklin), S.F. 861-5555. California, D, \$\$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Millennium Finally, a restaurant where you can toast your vegan friends in style. Phyllo purses stuffed with wild mushrooms and tofu ricotta and silky chocolate midnight cake are just a few of the organic, low-fat and animal-free treats that will please both veggies and omnivores alike. (Staff) 246 McAllister (at Larkin), S.F. 487-9800. Vege tarian, D, \$\$, DC/MC/V.

paul K offers an eastern Mediterranean menu as good as any in town, at notably uninflated prices. The mountain flat bread alone (along with two kinds of hummus) is worth a visit, but the menu accelerates smoothly all the way to dessert, where a cardamom fritter casts new light on our old friend the doughnut. (P.R, 4/00) 199 Gough (at Oak), S.F. 552-7132. Mediterranean, D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Tavern on the Tenderloin gives students at the California Culinary Academy a chance to serve real, paying customers, and for the most part they're up to the challenge. The lunch deal (\$10.95 for three courses) is a good one, and the kitchen handles the more difficult cases, such as fish, with considerable skill and some art. Service can be errat ic. (P.R., 7/99) 635 Polk (at Turk), S.F. California, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V

Hayes Valley

Arlequin offers light Provençal and Mediterranean food for takeout, but the best place ranean rood for takeout, but the best place to take your stuff is to the sunny, tranquil garden in the rear. There's a nice version of croque monsieur, irresistible fried chickpeas, and, for oenophiles, an adjoining wine shop, Amphora. (P.R., 3/00) 384B Hayes (at Gough), S.F. 863-0926. Mediterranean, B/L/D. 6. MCM

Carta Restaurant and Bar The U.N. of restaurants — a different ethnic or regional menu every month — recently added the adjoining storefront space and is now twice as lovable. The three-course lunch deal is one of the best ones going. (P.R., 4/99) 1760
Market (at Octavia), S.F. 863-3516. World, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Destino reweaves traditional Peruvian flavors into a tapestry of extraordinary vividness and style, and the storefront interior has been given a golden glow that would have satisfied the most restless conquistador. Campy desserts include an irresistible, de-Noël-like "Latino lover." (P.R. 6/00) 1815 Market (at Guerrero), S.F. 552

4451. Peruvian, D, \$\$\$, MC/V. Hayes Street Grill still offers a workable formula: the best fish, prepared with conservative expertise and offered with a choice of sauce and excellent pommes frites. An old, reliable friend. (P.R., 4/99) 320 Hayes (at Franklin), S.F. 863-5545. Seafood, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Suppenküche has a Busvan for Bargains, Suppersuction has a Busyan for Bargains, butcher-block look that gives context to its German cuisine. If you like schnitzel, brats, roasted potatoes, eggs, cheese, cucumber salad, cold cuts, and cold beer, you'll love it here. (P.R., 5/00) 601 Hayes (at Laguna), S.E. 252-9289. German, BR/D, \$, AE/MC/V. Terra Brazilis Bistro The Brazilian menu

ranges from such traditional items as feijoa da (the black-bean stew) to tuna loin, skewered on a sugar cane, then grilled. The restaurant's city-slick design is a warm, welcoming assemblage of exposed brick, honeycolored wood, and plate glass. (P.R., 1/00) 602 Hayes (at Laguna), S.F. 241-1900. Brazilian, BR/D, \$\$, AE/CB/DISC/MC/TM/V. Zuni The old standbys are reliable, though the famous burger could do with a bit les focaccia, and the oddly greasy Caesar salad is far from the best in town. The best dishes are Italian in their simplicity and pureness. (P.R., 7/99) 1658 Market (at Franklin), S.F.

Castro, Noe Valley, Glen Park

Alice's sits on an obscure corner of outer Noe Valley, but the Chinese food is reliably fresh, tasty, and cheap. The decor is surprisingly el-

552-2522. California, B/L/D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

egant, too: Wedgwood place settings and displays of blown glass. (P.R., 7/00) 1599 Sanchez (at 29th St.), S.F. 282-8999. Chinese,

Amberiack Sushi is like a miniature version. of Blowfish or Tokyo Go Go. The more complex dishes, such as a tuna-sashimi tartare with lemon olive oil, are better than the simple, traditional stuff, which can be overchilled. Fine service, moderate prices. (P.R., 1/00) 1497 Church (at 27th St.), S.F. 920-1797. Japanese, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Bacco breathes north-Italian authenticity, from the terra-cotta-colored walls to the traditional but vivid veal preparations. One of the best neighborhood Italian restaurants in town. (P.R, 7/00) 737 Diamond (at 24th St.), S.F. 282-4969. Italian, D, \$\$, MC/V.

Blue dishes up home cooking as good as any mom's, in a downtown New York environment — of mirrors, gray blue walls, and spotlights — that would blow most moms away. First-rate meat loaf, mushroom soup, and sautéed calamari compete, for the most part successfully, with the gay glamorama on both sides of the big plate-glass windows along Market Street. (P.R., 7/99) 2337 Market (at Castro), S.F. 863-2583. American, BR/L/D, \$, MC/V.

Cafe J keeps a low decorative profile, but the Basque dishes really rock. The pariatta — a reinterpretation of seafood paella, seasoned with ginger and cilantro — is one of the best restaurant dishes you're likely to eat in this town. And the Basque-style mussels aren't far behind. (P.R., 11/00) 1708 Church (at 29th St.), S.F. 970-1095. French/Basque, D, \$\$, MC/V.

Chenery Park is the restaurant Glen Park has been waiting for all these years: a calm, un-derstated setting (lots of stairs!) and an eclectic American menu with plenty of sly twists. A worthy addition to the city's array of first-class neighborhood restaurants. (P.R., 11/00) 683 Chenery (at Diamond), S.F. 337-8537. American, D., \$\$, MC/V. Firefly One of the best of S.F.'s neighbor-hood restaurants, Firefly promises an innov-ative (Medi/Asian), perfectly prepared meal. The menu rotates each week and could include bayou gumbo, shrimp and scallop dumplings, or vegetarian cassoulet. Whatever entices you, be sure to save room for dessert. (Staff) 4288 24th St. (at Douglass), S.F. 821-7652. American, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V. Firewood Cafe Firewood serves up food that's trendy but tasty, hip without being weird, familiar but still a must-have. Delicious thin, chewy-crusted pizzas, four kinds of tortellini, rotisserie-roasted chicken, and big bowls of salad. (S.R., 2/97) 4248 18th St. (at Diamond), S.F. 252-0999. Italian, L/D, ¢,

Incontro serves up Italian classics in a converted Castro Victorian with levels and stair-cases and tables all over the place. Nifty small touches breathe new life into standard dishes: a splash of brandy with the eggplant and prosciutto in the veal saltimbocca, an uncluttered combination of shrimp and crab in the seafood ravioli. (P.R., 10/99) 4230 18th St. (at Diamond), S.F. 437-6722. Italian, D, \$, MC/V.

Johnfrank The menu here is a set of celebratory variations on a simple theme of meat and potatoes. The adjoining parking lot is a welcome touch. (P.R., 12/99) 2100 Market (at Church), S.F. 503-0333. American, D, \$\$,

La Mooné rides a menu roller coaster from excellent to forgettable, but the best dishes (lamb tataki, beef rib eye) will leave you exclaiming. The second-floor space brings a welcome serenity. (P.R., 12/00) 4072 18th St. (at Castro), S.F. 355-1999. Fusion, D, \$\$,

MC/V. **Legume** brings a stylish vegetarian menu to the heart of Noe Valley. Goat cheese enlivens many of the dishes; fresh produce, much of it organic, does the rest. (P.R., 8/00) 4042 24th St. (at Castro), S.F. 401-7668. Vegetarian, B/L/D, S, MC/V. **Miss. Millials** has quietly become one of the

Miss Millie's has quietly become one of the best restaurants in Noe Valley. Lots of Latin American flourishes in its pan-ethnic comfort menu, and still a great place for brunch. (P.R., 12/00) 4123 24th St. (at Castro), S.F. 285-5598. California, BR/D, \$\$, MC/V.

2223 could easily be a happening queer bar, what with all that male energy. But the American menu joins familiarity with high style, and the ambience is that of a great party where you're bound to meet some-

1. The smiling signore Laghi 2. Salmon filets with

the

blender

Indonesian curry paste

- 3. Gunfire in a downpour near Basque 4. Artisan's apple turnovers
- 5. Waiting for Catahoula

body hot. (P.R., 10/00) 2223 Market (at Noe), S.F. 431-0692. American, BR/D, \$\$,

Valentine's Cafe still packs them in after five valentine's Gate still packs them in after the years and despite an increasingly competitive environment. The best dishes — and that's most of them — are meatless in origin: dal, linguine puttanesca (with only the anchovies omitted), black-bean quesadilas.

anchovies omitted), black-bean quesadillas. Surprisingly bewitching desserts. (P.R., 8/00) 1793 Church (at 30th St.), S.F. 285-2257. Vegetarian, BR/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Zodiac Club numbers quite a few local chefs among its patrons, and that ought to tell you something about the quality of the eastern Mediterranean-influenced food. Lots of lamb, imaginatively handled, in a way-cool streambage of ultraviolet light. Another atmosphere of ultraviolet light. Another plus: not much price inflation. (P.R., 3/00) 718 14th St. (at Church), S.F. 626-7827. California, D, \$\$, MC/V.

Haight, Cole Valley, **Western Addition**

Alamo Square With its appealing but un-fussy decor, welcoming service, and gentle prices, Alamo Square is an archetype for the "good little place around the corner." Five different kinds of fish are offered next to

three cooking techniques and five sauces. (S.R., 4/98) 803 Fillmore (at Grove), S.F. 440-2828. Seafood, D, \$, MC/V. Ali Baba's Cave Veggie shish kebabs are grilled fresh to order, the hummus and baba ghanoush are subtly seasoned and delicious. (S.G.E. 2.1 Majob., C. E. 2.5. (Staff) 531 Haight (at Fillmore), S.F. 255-7820; 799 Valencia (at 19th St.), S.F. 863-

3054. Middle Eastern, L/D, ¢, MC/V. **Asgew Grill** reinvents the world of fine fast food on a budget with skewers, served in under 10 minutes for under 10 bucks. The interior design is a little drab, but with the Haight Street scene parading by the windows, you'll never notice. (P.R., 6/99) 1607 Haight (at Clayton), S.F. 701-9301. California, L/D, ¢, MC/V.

Brother-in-Laws Bar-B-Cue always wins the "Best Barbecue" prize in our annual Best of Bay edition: the ribs, chickens, links, and brisket are smoky and succulent; the aroma sucks you in like a tractor beam. (Staff) 705 Divisadero (at Grove), S.F. 931-7427. Barbe-

cue, L/D, \$. **Caffe Proust** feels a bit like a graduate-student lounge, with a decent Italian-influenced menu priced as if it were 10 years ago. The "Proust" fries are unbelievably good far and away the best in town. (P.R., 6/00) 1801 McAllister (at Baker), S.F. 345-9560.

Italian, BR/D, \$, AE/MC/TM/V.

Eos serves one of the best fusion menus in town, but be prepared for scads of yuppies and lots of noise. (P.R., 10/00) 901 Cole (at Carl), S.F. 566-3063. Fusion, D, \$\$, AE/

Ganges spices its savory vegetarian Indian the spices its savory vegetarian indian fare with a very liheral hand. The menu changes often to take advantage of seasonal vegetables and the creativity of the chef. (Staff) 775 Frederick (at Willard), S.F. 661-7290. Indian, D. S. MC/V.

Grandeho's Kamekyo Sushi Bar Always packed, Grandeho serves up excellent sushi along with a full Japanese menu. The speciality rolls are excellent; if you're straying from the raw fish, good choices include yam noodle salad and chicken yakitori. (Staff) 943 Cole (near Carl), S.F. 759-5693. Japanese, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Kate's Kitchen is a clean and cozy storefront breakfast-and-lunch spot that dishes up the best scallion-cheese biscuits out west. The lines on the weekends are just as long as they are down the street at Spaghetti Western. (Staff) 471 Haight (at Fillmore), S.F. 626-3984. American, B/L, ¢.

Continued on page 36









Eat Here Now

Massawa Everything at this homey Eritrean restaurant — even the vegetarian stuff — was great. The tsebhi-derho (dark-meat chicken) was still on the bone and smothered in a tomato-based sort of barbecue sauce. My favorite was kelwa — tender pieces of beef sautéed in "spiced clarified butter." (D.L., 12/97) 1538 Haight (at Ashbury), S.F. 621-4129. Eritrean, L/D, \$, AE/

Metro Cafe brings the earthy chic of Paris's 11th arrondissement to the Lower Haight, prix fixe and all. Chrome bistro chairs, veal in lemon sauce, rack of lamb, and croque monsieur all have that City of Light feel, at notably moderate prices. (P.R., 10/00) 311
Divisadero (at Oak), S.F. 552-0903. French, B/BR/L/D, \$, MC/V.

Red Sea Cafe offers fish and chips — but blow them off in favor of something spicy, Fritrean style, plucked from the plate with a segment of injera, the spongy, crepelike bread. Shiro, a paste of ground peas and berberé seasonings, will set a joyful blaze in your mouth; curried lamb is excellent. Dim atmospherics. (P.R., 9/00) 494 Haight (at Fillmore), S.F. Eritrean, L/D, ¢, AE/MC/V. Storyville is more conducive to dancin' and drinkin' than to eatin', but if you don't mind having music blast while you eat, then try the blackened catfish or the veggie jambalaya. Go before 9 p.m. when the cover charge kicks in. (Liz Hille, 6/00) 1751 Fulton (at Masonic), S.F. 441-1751. Cajun, L/D, \$\$,

Mission, Bernal Heights, **Potrero Hill**

Al's Cafe Good Food Al's is the best dang diner in town. Everything here is great, from the home fries and eggs to the chili and burgers, and even the toast in between. (D.L., 3/98) 3286¹/₂ Mission (at 29th St.), S.F. 641-8445, American, B/L, ¢.

Angkor Borei Nicely presented smallish por-tions of real good food, friendly service, and excellent atmosphere way down on Mission Street. Everything we tried was dee-god-dang-licious, including cold Cambodian noodles, sour soup, and shrimp and pineap-ple curry. (D.L., 3/96) 3471 Mission (at Cortland), S.F. 550-8417. **Cambodian,** L/D, \$, AE/DISC/MC/V.

Baobab Bar and Grill A Senegalese hole-in-the-wall, Baobab serves great-tasting West African specialties like couscous, fried plantains, and savory rice dishes for a reasonable price. (D.L., 11/97) 3388 19th St. (at Mission), S.F. 643-3558. African, BR/D, ¢.

Bistro E Europe is probably the only place in town — and maybe the Bay Area — where you can sample the culinary flourishes of those European wanderers, the Gypsies, or, as they call themselves, Roma. The basic cuisine is Hungarian: lots of paprika, sour cream, schnitzel, and of course, fried bread. A singular experience. (P.R., 8/00) 4901 Mis-sion (at France), S.F. 469-5637. Hungarian/ Gypsy, BR/D, \$\$, cash only.

Bitterroot resembles an Old West saloon

(minus the swinging doors at the front), but the food is American classic - meat loaf, fried chicken, roasted pork loin, burgers at very low prices. (P.R., 1/99) 3122 16th St. (at Valencia), S.F. 626-5523, American, B/L/

Bombay Ice Cream and Chaat You probably already knew Bombay on Valencia from the brilliant aroma of its market of imported Indian groceries, trinkets, and incense. You should also stop in for some Indian chaat — cheap, delicious fast food like samosas and curries. (E.S., 2/98) 552 Valencia (at 16th St.), S.F. 431-1103. Indian takeout, L/D, ¢.

Bruno's retains an alluring 1940s feel lots of red leather booths, dim lighting, a discreet hush — but the food is now higher-end California-Italian, best when simple. Killer bombolini (fresh doughnuts). (P.R., 8/00) 2389 Mission (at 20th St.), F. 648-7701. Cal-Ital, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V. Burger Joint makes hamburgers like you re-member from your childhood, with lettuce, onion, tomato, and mayonnaise. (Staff) 807 Valencia (at 19th St.), S.F. 824-3494. Ameri-

Cafe Arguello soothes jangled urban nerves with an airy space, votive candles, louvered bistro tables, a subtly impressionist paint bistro tables, a subtly impressionist paint scheme — and moderately priced Spanish food, from tapas to blockbuster paellas. The place to go when you want to indulge your spontaneity muse. (P.R., 10/00) 1499 Valencia (at 26th St.), S.F. 643-3160. Spanish, D. \$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Cafe Rico brings a touch of European grace — high draperies, Picardie glasses on the marble-topped tables — to a gritty stretch of 14th Street. All the food is prepared in ovens of one sort or another, and the menu has a lurching charm, from the plate of nachos to rack of lamb with tomato-mint chutney. (P.R., 5/99) 233A 14th St. (at Natoma), S.F. 522-5353. Eclectic, B/L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V. Caffe Cozzolino Get it to go: everything's about two to four bucks more if you eat it about two to four bucks more it you eat it there. The vermicelli with tomatoes and basil and garlic (\$8) was pretty goddamn delicious. The spaghetti with clam sauce (\$9), on the other hand, was pretty goddamn weak. (D.L., 6/98) 300 Precita, S.F. 285-6005. Italian, I./D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Il Cantuccio strikingly evokes that little trat-toria you found near the Ponte Vecchio on your last trip to Florence. Lovely pastas, pizza, salads, and risottos, and a lethally good chocolate tart for dessert. (P.R., 11/00) 3228 16th St. (at Guerrero), 861-3889. Ital-

3228 16th St. (at Guerreto), our Joody Rulian, D, \$, MC/V.

Defina If you like your restaurants loud, you'll love Delfina. Luckily the Tuscan-influenced food is every bit the equal of the roar. Fish dishes flirt with spectacular, as does the demonstrate an accurating huttermilk panna cotta. ceptively unassuming buttermilk panna cotta. (P.R., 1/99) 3621 18th St. (at Guerrero), S.F. 552-4055. California, D, \$\$, MC/V.

Foreign Cinema really does show foreign cinema, and the effect, in a semi-outdoorsy patio under transparent pavilions, is pov fully romantic. The straightforward California cuisine is better than you'd expect. There's plenty of meat for carnivores; vege tarian dishes are a little thin. (P.R., 2/00) 2534 Mission (at 21st St.), S.F. 648-7600. California, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

42° still serves up a panoply of Mediterranean dishes as various and imaginative as you'll find in the city. The free parking lot (behind the Esprit center) is the automotive equivalent of winning the lottery. The restaurant of-fers live jazz, so beware the noise. (P.R., 12/99) 235 16th St. (at Illinois), S.F. 777-5559. Mediterranean, D, \$\$\$, AE/MC/V.

Garibaldi Cafe Great service without the attitude and a wonderfully eclectic menu that often includes spicy pastas, grilled halibut, tandoori lamb, smoked chicken quesadillas, and filet mignon with peppercorns. (Staff) 1600 17th St. (at Wisconsin), S.F. 552-3325. California/Mediterranean, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/

Gordon's House of Fine Eats The menu divides into five flights, one of which, "local showcase," holds the most interest, including a fine fromage tart. The homemade s'more may not be the best in town, but it's among the biggest. (P.R., 6/99) 500 Florida (at Mariposa), S.F. 861-8900. California, L/D, \$\$\$, DC/MC/V.

Herbivore: The Earthly Grill is adorned in the immaculate-architect style: angular blond-wood surfaces and precise cubbyholes abound. Lasagna with tofu ricotta gave hardly a clue that it was cheeseless, and the pesto-toast appetizer was amazingly rich. (E.S., 3/97) 983 Valencia (at 21st St.), S.F. 826-5657. Vegetarian, L/D, §, MC/V. Joe's **Cable Car** is the place where "Joe grinds his own fresh meat daily," and it shows. Fill up with a thick milkshake on the rich but his he did to the control of t side, but skip the disappointing fries. (Staff) 4320 Mission (at Silver), S.F. 334-6699. American, L/D, \$, MC/V.

Just for You My favorite Potrero Hill holein-the-hill, Just for You serves up generally excellent, meaty meals with a spicy, Louisianic tint to them. The best way to break your fast here is with the crab cakes (D.L., 5/98) 1453 18th St., S.F. 647-3033. American, B/L, ¢.

The Liberties reinvents the Irish pub for millennial, digital times. The interior design evokes a 19th-century steamship; the food
— mostly tasty, honest renditions of meat and potatoes has an unmistakable masculine cast. Best bets: baby back ribs, fish and chips. (P.R., 4/00) 998 Guerrero (at 22nd St.), S.F. Irish, BR/L/D, \$, AE/DC/DS/

Liberty Cafe specializes in simple, perfect food: a Caesar salad that outshines all others; the best chicken pot pie in the city; and down-home desserts even a bake sale in lowa couldn't beat. (S.R., 5/98) 410 Cortland (at Bennington), S.F. 695-8777. American, BR/L/D, \$-\$\$, AE/MC/V. **Luna Park** bubbles over with the new Mis-

sion's nouveau riche, but even so, the food is exceptionally satisfying and not too expen-Whether it's the grilled king salmon, the braised lamb shank, or the homemade s'mores, you'll have to look hard to find anything amiss. (P.R., 8/00) 694 Valencia (at 18th St.), S.F. 553-8584. Californian, L/D, \$,

Mariachi's serves up its fare in a cheery-pas tel-painted space, and its chalkboard menu features ingredients like sautéed mushrooms, pineapple, and pesto. (E.S., 1/98) 508 Valencia (at 16th St.), S.F. 621-4358. Mexi-

Mi Lindo Perú dishes up mom-style cooking, Peruvian style, in illimitable portions. The shrimp chowder is astounding. Lots of tapas, too. (P.R., 3/00) 3226 Mission (at Valencia), S.F. 642-4897. Peruvian, L/D, \$,

Moki's Sushi and Pacific Grill serves imaginative specialty makis along with items from a pan-Asian grill in a small, bustling neighborhood spot. The kitchen's timing can sometimes be erratic, but the fresh, flavorful food is worth the wait. (Staff) 830 Cortland (at Gates), S.F. 970-9336. Japanese, D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

NeO The all-white decor is a bit odd, if soothing, but it does provide a clean back-drop for the kitchen's clarion flavors. Virtually every dish delivers the goods, from gnocchi dressed with rabbit Bolognese sauce to braised pork shank nestled in mashed potatoes with a simple pan-deglazed jus. (P.R., 12/99) 1007 Guerrero (at 22nd St.). .F. 643-3119. American, D, \$\$, MC/V. New Central Restaurant is the kind of place you'd find Richie and the Fonz hanging out if they were Latino. The kitchen serves Mexican comfort food, while ambience flows from the jukebox near the door. (P.R., 3/00) 399 South Van Ness (at 14th St.), S.F. 255-8247 or 621-9608. Mexican, B/L, ¢,

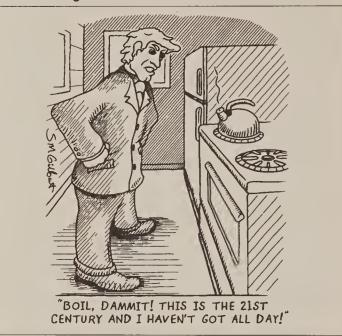
North Star is younger sibling to Firefly and has the same sort of seamless menu. The food ranges from excellent hummus with grilled curried flat bread to a cheeseburger with fries, and the setting is flush with a quiet yellow beauty, like morning sunshine. (P.R., 3/99) 288 Connecticut (at 18th St.), S.F. 551-9840. California, BR/L/D, \$\$, MC/V. Pancho Villa The best word for this 16th Street taquería is big, from the large space to briet taqueria is ∂g , from the large space to the jumbo-size burritos to the grand dinner plates of grilled shrimp. The only small thing is the price. (Staff) 3071 16th St. (at Valen-cia), S.F. 864-8840. Mexican, BR/L/D, ¢. Pakwan has a little secret: a secluded garden out back. It's the perfect place to enjoy the fiery foods of India and Pakistan. A collection of old bureaus and settees in front lends a pleasant antique-store gloss. (P.R., 6/00) 3180 16th St. (at Guerrero), S.F. 255-2440. Indian/Pakistani, L/D, ¢, cash only. Potrero Brewing Co. offers nicely upscaled pub food to accompany its smooth, fresh microbrews. The sprawling outdoor terrace
— a bow to the neighborhood's relatively sunny, warm weather — rivals that of MoMo's. (P.R., 6/99) 535 Florida (at Mariposa), S.F. 552-1967. American, L/D, \$\$, AE/

Rasoi The food here is milder than the fiery south Indian curries, and it's very vegetari an-friendly. Slowly revolving ceiling fans give a pleasant illusion of heat even when it's freezing outside. (P.R., 4/99) 1037 Valencia (at 22nd St.), S.F. 695-0599. Indian, D, \$,

Slanted Door has hosted a food-oriented president, and with reason. Charles Pham's place gives a stylish California elaboration to the foods of Vietnam at prices that remain stubbornly reasonable despite huge popularity. If you want to walk in, try lunch, when the menu is more rustic. (P.R., 5/00) 584 Valencia (at 17th St.), S.F. 861-8032. Vietnamese, L/D, \$\$, MC/V.

Slow Club keeps things simple and direct, and that's always a stylish way to do it. Lots of seasonality (pasta with asparagus and fava beans) and classic preparations (an unbelievably tangy lemon-meringue pie), in a

The Groaning Board



Attention cartoonists: We're looking for cartoons about food and restaurants. Send them to Dine Cartoons, San Francisco Bay Guardian, 520 Hampshire St., S.F., CA 94110.

cool, edgy postindustrial space. (P.R., 4/00) 2501 Mariposa (at Hampshire), S.F. 241 9390. California, BR/L/D, \$\$, MC/V. Sunflower strikes all the right notes of today's Mission: good, inexpensive Viet-namese food in a modish California ambi-ence, with friendly, casual service. Tasty clasall here, and the lunch specials are a bonan-za for the famished. (P.R., 11/98) 506 Valen-cia (at 16th St.), S.F. 626-5023. Vietnamese, L/D, S, AE/MC/V.

Taqueria Can-Cun serves up one of the best veggie burritos in town — delicious, juicy, and huge. (Staff) 2288 Mission (at 19th St.), S.F. 252-9560; 1003 Market (at Sixth St.), S.F. 864-6773. Mexican, L/D, \$. 3Ring fills the space that used to be Val 21, and the food, now given south-of-France twists, is every bit as good. One killer dessert; the cheesecake, mounted on a chocolate crust and swabbed with a blueberry compote. (P.R., 11/99) 995 Valencia (at 21st St.), S.F. 821-3210. Provençal, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Ti Couz The menu of entrées here consists exclusively of crepes — from light snacks to full meals, from sweet to savory — served up in a bright, boisterous café environment (Staff) 3108 16th St. (at Valencia), S.F. 252-7373. Crepes, BR/L/D, \$, MC/V. **Tokyo Go Go** The simplest dishes are the

best. Given the location and the thick crowds of people dressed in black, the noise level is surprisingly moderate. You can actually have a conversation here if you want to. (P.R., 3/99) 3174 16th St. (near Guerrero), S.F. 864-2288. Japanese, D, \$\$, MC/V Universal Cafe As neighborhood secrets go, Universal Cafe is a less well-kept one than

most. Its cool industrial style harbors a Cali Ital menu with such heartwarming dishes as cassoulet, fettuccine with grilled salmon and spinach, and crisp-crusted house pizzas. (S.R., 1/98) 2814 19th St. (at Florida), S.F. 821-4608. California, B/L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V. La Villa Poppi feels like a Tuscan country inn. Each dish gets a little kiss of affectionate attention: fresh marjoram, say, in the risotto beneath poached halibut, or the sage butter in which the day's gnocchi takes its final turn. (P.R., 11/99) 3234 22nd St. (at Mission), S.F. 642-5044. Italian, D, \$\$\$, MC/V. Walzwerk bills itself as an "East German' restaurant, but don't be frightened: the food is fresh, clever, tasty, and surprisingly light. First-rate Wiener schnitzel and chick en fricassee; surprisingly tasty salads: carrot and celery root; marinated tomato, cucum ber and cauliflower. The décor has a definite Cabaret edge. (P.R., 11/99) 381 S. Van Ness (at 15th), S.F. 551-7181. German, D, \$, Watergate is beautifully appointed, in buttery paint and wallpaper and dark wood, and the food matches up, from stylish foie gras with verjuice and grapes to an earthy choucroute lightened up with slices of lean pork tenderloin. (P.R., 2/99) 1152 Valencia (at 22nd St.), S.F. 648-6000. California, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Zante Pizza and Indian Cuisine is that famous Indian pizza place. Meaning it's got Indian food, it's got pizza, and it's got Indian pizza. The regular 'za is just ordinary, but the Indian food's great, and the Indian pizza is really great. (D.L., 9/96) 3489 Mission (at Cortland), S.F. 821-3949; 3083 16th St. (at Valencia), S.F. 621-4189. Indian, L/D, \$, AE/ DISC/MC/V.

Marina, Pacific Heights

Aram's In this pretty brick courtyard space, start with the mixed mezze platter, then move on to artichoke risotto, grilled rack of lamb, or a wild mushroom-phyllo strudel. (S.R., 5/98) 3665 Sacramento (at Spruce), S.F. 474-8061. Middle Eastern, BR/D, \$\$,

B Spot invites relaxation, from the ceiling fans to the reassuring pub food to the fine smooth beer. There's a decent gumbo for dinner, and plenty of good sandwiches for lunch. (P.R., 6/00) 2301 Fillmore (at Clay), S.F. 614-1111. American, BR/L/D, \$, MC/V. Bistro Aix is more California than Carcassonne. Thin-crust pizzas, good salads, ten-der grilled lamb, crackling-skinned roast chicken, pillowy garlic mashed potatoes, and fabulous ratatouille make the terror of parking in this neighborhood at dinnertime almost worth it. (S.R., 5/98) 3340 Steiner (at Chestnut), S.F. 202-0100. California, D, \$\$,

Chez Nous fills the French slot in our town's tapas derby, and it does so with imagination, panache, and surprising economy. The menu features touches from around the Mediterranean, but much of the best stuff — croque monsieur, lamb chops with lavender salt — is unmistakably Gallic. (P.R., 5/00) 1911 Fillmore (at Pine), S.F. 441-8044. French, L/D, \$, MC/V.

Curbside Too, younger sibling to the Curbside Cafe, looks like a roadside greasy spoon. But come dinnertime the Mexican brunch influences melt into a sublime French saucefest. (P.R., 12/98) 2769 Lombard (at Lyon), S.F. 921-4442. French, D, \$\$, AE/MC/V. Dragon Well looks like an annex of the cavernous Pottery Barn down the street, but its traditional Chinese menu is radiant with fresh ingredients and careful preparation. Prices are modest, the service swift and pro-

Continued on page 38

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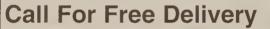
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fessional. (P.R., 9/99) 2142 Chestnut (at Pierce), S.F. 474-6888. Chinese, L/D, ¢, MC/V. **Elite Cafe** A welcoming place. The menu has plenty of familiar Creole and Cajun favorites plenty of familiar Creole and Cajun (c) (blackened catfish, gumbo, jambalaya) along with more typical California fare (baby greens in balsamic vinaigrette, grilled salmon). (S.R 2/98) 2049 Fillmore (at California), S.F. 346-8668. Cajun, BR/D, \$\$, MC/V.

listings

Greens is a vegetarian's fantasy of San Francisco. All the elements that made it famous are still intact: pristine produce, an emphasis on luxury rather than health, that gorgeous view. (M.W., 8/99; Restaurant Poll winner, 1995) Fort Mason Center, Bldg A, Marina at Laguna, S.F. 771-6222. Vegetarian, L/D, \$\$,

DISC/MC/V.

Meeting House ought to make anybody's list of ultimate neighborhood California restaurants. The food is precise and hearty, the desserts all-American fantasies, the ambiguate of the control ence a lovely balance between old-fashioned and modern. (P.R., 9/00) 1701 Octavia (at Bush), S.F. 922-6733. California, D, \$\$\$, AE/

MC/D.

Mezes glows with sunny Greek hospitality, and the plates coming off the grill — pork souvlaki, marinated prawns — are terrific, though not huge. Bulk up with a fine Greek salad. (P.R., 6/00) 2373 Chestnut (at Divisadero), S.F. 409-7111. Greek, D, \$, MC/V. Plump Jack Café If you had to take your parents to dinner in the Marina, this would be the place. A plush postmodern interior design, stylishly earthy food, and of course design, stylishiy earthy food, and of course the famous wine list with its drastic dis-counts make PlumpJack a small but authen-tic jewel. (P.R., 4/99) 3127 Fillmore (at Fil-bert), S.F. 563-4755. California, L/D, \$\$, AE/

Rose's Cafe has a flexible, all-day menu that starts with breakfast sandwiches, moves into bruschettas, salads, and pizzas, and finishes the day with grilled dinner specials like salmon, chicken, and flat-iron steak. And, of course, owner Reed Hearon's famous ironskillet-roasted mussels. (S.R., 5/97) 2298 Union (at Steiner), S.F. 775-2200. California, B/L/D, \$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Saji Japanese Cuisine It would a crime not

to eat the amazingly good raw fish here. Sit at the sushi bar and ask the resident sushi makers what's particularly good that day. As for the hot dishes, seafood yosenabe, served in a clay pot, is a virtual Discovery Channel of finned and scaly beasts, all tasty and fresh. (S.R., 1/98) 3232 Scott (at Lombard), S.F. 931-0563. Japanese, D, \$, AE/DC/MC/

Sushi Groove is easily as cool as its name. Behind wasabi-green velvet curtains, salads can be inconsistent but the sushi is impec-cable, especially the silky salmon and special white tuna nigiri. (S.R., 5/97) 1916 Hyde (at Union), S.F. 440-1905. Japanese, D, \$, AE/ DC/DISC/MC/V

DC/DISC/MC/V.

Takara moves its high-quality Japanese food quickly, so if you need to catch a flick at the nearby AMC Kabuki, it's just the place. The menu offers plenty of sushi and sashimi, as well as udon, broiled items, and the occasional curiosity such as grated yam. (P.R., 9/00) 22 Peace Plaza #202 (Japan Center), S.F. 921-2000. Japanese, L/D, \$, MC/V.

Trapdoor If it's tapas American-style that you seek, then Trapdoor's the place. The eclectic American food is cheap and for the most part very satisfying: a lovely chicken and dumpling stew, linguine with mussels and wild mushrooms, an excellent cheeseburger. (P.R., 1/99) 3251 Scott (at Chest-nut), S.F. 776-1928. American, D, \$, AE/

Via Vai The highly regarded Pane e Vino has opened a casual little sister named Via Vai, specializing in wood oven-fired pizzas and reasonably priced pastas. While the extensive menu may have few surprises, it's also solidly satisfying. (S.R., 4/98) 1715 Union (at Gough), S.F. 441-2111. Italian, L/D, \$,

Zinzino is an elegant addition to the restau-rant-heavy Marina, with a snappy decor reminiscent of an Italian sidewalk café. The menu offers blistery-crusted pizzas, roasted meat and fish, and a silky wild mushroom lasagna. (S.R., 8/97) 2355 Chestnut (at Divisadero), S.F. 346-6623. Italian, D, \$\$, AE/

Sunset

Blue Tortilla If you like fish tacos and are having trouble finding them, this could be the place. The cantina surroundings have a lively L.A. gloss; service is attentive and friendly. (P.R., 1/99) 641 Irving (at Eighth Ave.), S.F. 566-5515. Mexican, BR/L/D, \$,

Bocca Rotis The Italian food in this lovely West Portal space can be memorable, espevest Portal space can be inferitionable, espe-cially the desserts, which are reliably fine. If in doubt, stick to pasta over roast chicken. (P.R., 10/98) 1 West Portal (at Ulloa), S.F. 665-9900. Italian, BR/L/D, \$\$, MC/V.

Cafe for All Seasons reflects the friendly vibrance of its West Portal neighborhood. Everyone is welcome, from grandparents to small children to big fuzzy bears on a date.
The California comfort food doesn't set off fireworks, but it's reliably good and fresh.
The perfect place to go with your parents.
(P.R., 5/00) 150 West Portal (at Vicente), S.F. 665-0900. California, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V **Hotei** is a marvel of great Japanese fare combined with efficient, accommodating service. Four types of noodles are the founda-tion around which swirl lively broths, each tion around which swirt lively protins, each topped with compelling ingredients, such as delicate tempura, fresh seafood, tofu, or sliced beef. (Staff) 1290 Ninth Ave. (at Irving). 753-6045. Japanese, L/D, ¢, AE/DC/

House on Ninth An intimate, low-ceilinged entrance area opens into a spacious, dramatically proportioned room lit with skylights. small plates work the Asian-fusion theme best here, like grilled scallops with mango salad and green bean tempura. (S.R., 5/97) 1269 Ninth Ave. (at Irving), S.F. 682-3898. Fusion, I/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Joubert's cooks up a mostly vegan, all-vege-tarian menu that's an intriguing mix of South African, Indian, and Asian influences, and certainly worth a trip out to the beach. (S.R., 8/96) 4115 Judah (at 46th Ave.), S.F. 753-5448. Vegetarian, D., \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Marnee Thai A friendly, low-key neighbor-hood restaurant that just happens to serve some of the best Thai food in town. The kitchen turns out such unusual dishes as a fresh corn-cakes appetizer and curried fish mousse wrapped in banana leaves. (Staff) 2225 Irving (at 23rd Ave.), S.F. 665-9500.

Thai, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Masala means "spice mixture," and spices aplenty you will find in the south Asian menu. Don't miss the chicken tikka masala, menu. Don't miss the chicken tikka masala, and be sure to order plenty of nan to sop up the sauce with. (P.R., 11/00) 1220 Ninth Ave. (at Lincoln), S.F. 566-6976. Indian/Pakistani, L/D, \$, AE/DC/DS/MC/V.

Organica This may be the only restaurant of its kind in the Bay Area — an upscale "live food" restaurant, where none of the healthy vegan (using is coyed. (Staff) 1224 Night.

vegan cuisine is cooked. (Staff) 1224 Ninth Ave. (at Lincoln), S.F. 665-6519. Vegetarian, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Park Chow Eclectic home cooking with style, at habit-forming prices. Chow could proba-bly thrive on its basic dishes, like the burger royale with cheese (\$6.95), but if you're will ing to spend an extra five bucks or so, the kitchen can really flash you some thigh. (P.R., 10/98) 1240 Ninth Ave. (at Lincoln) S.F. 665-9912. California, BR/L/D, \$, MC/V. P.J.'s Oyster Bed Of all the U.S. regional cultures, southern Louisiana's may be the most beloved, and at P.J.'s you can taste why. (Staff) 737 Irving (at Ninth Ave.), S.F. 566-7775. Seafood, L/D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/

Prevot's serves a dud-free French-Italian menu with lots of traditional favorites spaghetti Bolognese, sole meunière — along with a few vegetarian offerings, such as pumpkin ravioli. Desserts emphasize boozy sauces. (P.R., 12/98) 400 Dewey (at Wood side), S.F. 661-9210. Continental, D, \$\$, AE/ DC/DISC/MC/V.

Tennessee Grill could as easily be called the Topeka Grill, since its atmosphere is redolent of Middle America. Belly up to the salad bar for huge helpings of the basics to accompany your meat loaf or calf's liver. (P.R., 7/00) 1128 Taraval (at 22nd Ave), S.F. 664-7834. American, B/L/D, \$, MC/V.

Yum Yum Fish is basically a fish store: three or four little tables with fish-print table-cloths under glass, fish-chart art along the wall, and fish-price signs all over the place. (D.L. 10/98) 2181 Irving (at 23rd Ave.), S.F. 566-6433. Sushi, L/D, ¢.

listings

Richmond

Al-Masri suggests, in food and ambience, the many influences that have swept across the Nile delta: feta cheese and olives from Greece, or a quasi-Indian stew of peas and Greece, or a quast-indian stew of peas and tomatoes, served with basmati rice. It's all pretty wonderful, and reasonably priced. (P.R., 2/00) 4031 Balboa (at 41st Ave.), S.F. 876-2300. Egyptian, D, \$, AE/DS/MC/V. Biru Biru adds a bit of hipster luster to the inner Richmond's restaurant row along Balter. Excellent works with clusters by inner Richmond's restaurant row along Bal-boa. Excellent sushi with sly touches — a sprig of mint in a spider roll, say. A good soundtrack, too. Worth discovering. (P.R., 7/00) 446 Balboa (at Fifth Ave.), S.F. 933-7100. Japanese, D. \$, MC/V. Cafe Riggio will slake anyone's cravings for classic Italian comfort food. Prices are mod-

erate, service informal but attentive, the set-ting attractive in a well kept-up 1970s style. Two fine dishes: veal scallops, Milanese style, and the criminally rich brownie. (P.R., 2/00) 12 Geary (at Fifth Ave.), S.F. 221-2114. Italian, D. \$, MC/V.

Chapeau! serves some of the best food in the city — at shockingly reasonable prices. The French cooking reflects as much style and imagination as any California menu, and the service achieves an almost Masa's-like precision. (P.R., 10/98) 1408 Clement (at 15th Ave.), S.F. 750-9787. French, D, \$\$, AE/DC/

Clement St. Bar and Grill The high-backed booths spell romance at this always crowded spot. Grilled fish dishes snap with flavor, and there are always a couple of delicioussounding vegetarian options. (Staff) 708 Clement (at Eighth Ave.), S.F. 386-2200. American, L/D, \$-\$\$, AE/DC/D1SC/MC/V. Clémentine offers comfortable sophistication at a fair price. The pain perdu— brioche French toast dusted with powdered sugar and accompanied by apple compote and hazelnut ice cream — is one of those desserts that you'll remember eating 10 years later. Go for the free valet parking. (P.R., 3/99) 126 Clement (at Second Ave.), S.F. 387-0408. French, BR/D, \$\$, MC/V.

Dong Hue serves a Vietnamese menu untouched by California faddishness. Plenty of seafood, especially shrimp, is on offer, but searood, especially shifting, so from the re's lots of meat and poultry, too, including rich five-spice chicken. Clean, spare surroundings; very swift service. (P.R., 5/00) 2110 Clement (at 22nd Ave.), S.F. 221-1880. Vietnamese, L/D, & MC/V.

Mai's Restaurant On the basis of the hotand-sour shrimp soup with pineapple alone, Mai's deserves a line out the door. (D.L., 3/97) 316 Clement (at Fourth Ave. S.F. 221-3046. Vietnamese, L/D, ¢, AE/DC/

Mandalay Restaurant features reasonably priced Burmese food like fish chowder, mango chicken, and ginger salad. (D.L., 4/99) 4348 California (at Sixth Ave.), S.F. 386-3896. Burmese, L/D, ¢, MC/V. **Natori** fulfills the dreams of those who crave

sushi but can never get enough. Here it's all you can eat; you'll get enough. It's good, too, though not fancy. Plenty of other Asian dishes are on offer, from kimchee to pork-fried rice. (P.R., 4/00) 327 Balboa (at Fourth Ave.), S.F. 387-2565. Japanese, L/D, \$, AE/

Okina Sushi is resolutely discreet and oldfashioned, from the bamboo screens on the windows to the simple wood bar at the back Don't expect rolls with cute names; the star here is the fish, minimally adorned and pristine. (P.R., 9/98) 776 Arguello (at Cabrillo), S.F. 387-8882. Japanese, D, ¢. Pacific Cafe serves simple, reliable seafood in an atmosphere redolent of 1974, when it

opened. Lots of dark wood and faintly psychedelic glass in the windows; free wine while you wait. (P.R., 10/98) 7000 Geary (at 34th Ave.), S.F. 387-7091. Seafood, D, \$\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Straits Cafe has a slightly campy faux-tropical decor, but its Singaporean menu is a kaleidoscope of mingled satisfactions. A touch of Indian curry here, Thai coconut milk and kaffir lime there; masterful deployment of unusual ingredients all the way to a ment of unusual ingredients all the way to a dessert of rice pudding in palm sugar syrup. (P.R., 8/99) 3300 Geary (at Parker), S.F. 668-1783. Singaporean, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V. Tawan's Thai Food It's tiny, it's cute, the prices are reasonable, and the food is tasty. Tom yum is right up there in the gold-star soup pantheon, and the silver noodle salad,

skewered tofu in red curry, and eggplant with onions, chilies, and basil are all worth walking the length of Geary barefoot for. (S.R., 8/97) 4403 Geary (at Eighth Ave.), S.F. 751-5175. Thai, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V.

751-5175. Thai, LTD, 3, AEDCIMCIV.

Thai Time proves that good things come in little packages. The place is tiny, and the food is tremendous, especially the hor mok talay, a seafood medley in coconut red-curry sauce cooked in a coconut shell. Even more familiar Thai standards are rendered with force and verve. (P.R., 9/00) 315 Eighth Ave. (at Clement), S.F. 831-3663. Thai, L/D, \$,

Traktir serves as a kind of town hall for the local Russian community, but the food has a distinct international flavor: dolma, fetacheese salad, Georgian wine, curry-spiked pieces of cold chicken. For traditionalists, there's borscht, vareniki, and salyanka, the famous soup of sausage and pickles. (P.R., 8/00) 4036 Balboa (at 36th Ave.), S.F. 386-9800. Russian, D, \$, MC/V.

Bayview, Hunters Point, and south

Cable Car Coffee Shop Atmospherically speaking, you're looking at your basic down-town South San Fran. old-style joint, one that serves a great Pacific Scramble for \$4.95 and the most perfectest hash browns to be tasted. (D.L., 3/98) 423¹/₂ Grand, South S.F. (650) 952-9533. American, B/BR/L, ¢.

Cliff's Bar-B-Q and Seafood Some things Cliff's got going for him: excellent mustard greens, just drenched in flavorfulness; and greens, just drenched in flavorfulness; and barbecued you-name-it. Brisket. Rib tips. Hot links. Pork ribs. Beef ribs. Baby backs. And then there're fried chickens and, by way of health food, fried fishes. (D.L., 2/98) 2177 Bayshore (at Blanken), S.F. 330-0736. Barbecue, L/D, &, AE/DC/MC/V. Gravy's Gravy calls himself the "Gumbo Specialist," and he might be right. It goes for \$5 or \$8, depending on how much you want—a lot, or a whole honkin-duty lot—and it includes shell-and-all crab chunks, boneand-all chicken parts, and sausage and stuff.

and-all chicken parts, and sausage and stuff. (D.L., 10/97) 2511 Geneva (at Pueblo), Daly City. 337-9122. Soul food, L/D, ¢.

JoAnn's Cafe and Pantry has gotten some word-of-mouth recommendations as a dive but it serves upscale breakfasts with decidedly nondive sides like low-fat chicken basil sausage, bagels, and homemade muffins and scones. (D.L., 12/97) 1131 El Camino Real, South S.F. (650) 872-2810. American, B/L, S. Outback Cafe is located way down in with all them warehouses at the end of Revere Street. I found the fare delectable. I got a double cheeseburger and a cup of soup.
Don't let what I got fool you, though. This is
gourmet stuff. (D.L., 7/94; Restaurant Poll
winner, 1995) 1099C Revere (at Griffith). 822-8119. Café, B/L, ¢

Peking Wok is a great Chinese dive in Bayview, right smack on the way to Candlestick. Not counting the 18 special combos for \$3.25–\$4.50, there are 109 items on the Peking Wok menu. At least 101 of them are under five bucks. (D.L., 1/99) 4920 Third St. (at Palou), S.F. 822-1818. Chinese, L/D, ¢. Soo Fong features good inexpensive Chinese food. For the heat-seeking diner, its fiery Szechuan specialties will hit the spot. Nice chow fun and other noodle dishes, too. (Staff) Bayview Plaza, 3801 Third St. (at Evans), S.F. 285-2828. Chinese, L/D, ¢. Young's Cafe A restaurant full of cheap, big, decent Chinese food, Young's serves up 15 rice dishes, most of them \$2.95, and 64 other standard Chinese things. Only four of those are more than five bucks. (D.L., 12/97) 732 22nd St. (at Third St.) S.F. 285-6046. Chinese, L/D, ¢.

Berkeley, Emeryville, and north

Ajanta offers a variety of deftly seasoned regional dishes from the Asian subcontinent. The harmonious ambience is rounded off by attentive service, and everything benefits from unique flavors and elegant presenta-tion. (D.R., 11/98) 1888 Solano, Berk. (510) 526-4373. Indian, L/D, \$, AE/DC/DISC/

A La Carte features Nathan and Katherine Cheng's notion of home-cooked meals, ranging from such Creole-inspired fare as chicken and andouille sausage gumbo to macaroni and cheese. Great side dishes and desserts, reasonable prices, and personalized service. (D.R., 1/99) 1453 Dwight (at Sacramento), Berk. (510) 548-2322. Creole, D, \$. MC/V. Bathroom not wheelchair accessible. Anna's is the rare place where the fare serves the higher purpose of fostering community. Almost half the menu is dedicated to colorful and tasty salads, and any minor pitfalls are transcended by virtue of owner-singer Anna de Leon's homemade soups and the eclectic selection of desserts. (D.R., 3/98) 1801 University (at Grant), Berk. (510) 849-2662. Café, L/D, ¢, AE/DC/MC/V.

Breads of India and Gourmet Curries The menu changes every day, so nothing is re-frigerated overnight, and the curries benefit from obvious loving care. The daily offerings include one lamb, one chicken, and two vegetarian curries, as well as one tandoori specialty. (D.R., 10/97) 2448 Sacramento (at Dwight), Berk. (510) 848-7684. Indian, L/D,

©, MC/V.

Bobby's Backdoor Cajun BBQ has some of the best and cheapest barbecue in the Bay Area. And as good as the BBQ is, the best thing about Bobby's is the atmosphere: live Cajun music and blues, dancing, and a Ping-Pong table. (D.L., 1/99) 12891 San Pablo, Rich-mond. (510) 232-9299. Barbecue, L/D, ¢.

Café de la Paz Specialties include African-Brazilian "xim xim" curries, Venezuelan corn pancakes, garnachas de pollo, arepas, fried plantain, jalapeño combread, Ecuadoran stuffed potato cakes, grilled prawns, de-licious black beans, and heavenly blackened seacakes served with orange-onion yogurt. (D.R., 10/98) 1600 Shattuck (at Cedar), Berk. (510) 843-0662. Latin American, BR/ L/D. S. AE/MC/V.

Café La Peña nurtures the spirit as much as it pleases the palate. Such hearty main dishes as Chilean lamb stew and paella reflect the with spices. (D.R., 6/98) 3105 Shattuck (near Prince), Berk. (510) 849-4846. Latin American, D. S., DC/MC/V.

Café Tululah makes a strong bid for the weekend brunch trade with special scram-bles, eggs Benedict, and an unusual corned beef hash. Excellent sandwiches, inventive salads, and simple pasta dishes highlight the lunch menu. (D.R., 4/99) 2512 San Pablo (near Dwight), Berk. (510) 548-4697. Café/ California, BR/L, ¢.

César You'll be tempted to nibble for hours Gesal four Detempted to mobile for modes from Chez Panisse-related César's Spanish-inspired tapas — unless you can't get past the addictive sage-and-rosemary-flecked fried potatoes. (D.R., 8/98) 1515 Shattuck (near Vine), Berk. (510) 883-0222. Spanish, D. S. DISC/MC/V.

Cha-Ya Everything chef-proprietor Atsushi Katsumata makes, from the potstickers and nigiri sushi to the steaming bowls of udon, hews to strict vegan standards. Don't miss the amazing things Katsumata does with tofu, whether deep-fried or topped with miso sauce in the dengaku. (D.R., 3/00) 1686 Shattuck (at Virginia), Berk. (510) 981-

1213. Japanese Vegetarian, D, \$, MC/V. Chez Panisse is a marvel of the freshest ingredients paired with impeccable prepara-tion: downstairs in the subdued restaurant, a four-course prix-fixe dinner is offered; upstairs, in the boisterous café, a more casual stairs, in the bolsterous caté, a more casual menu is served à la carte. (Staff) 1517 Shat-tuck (at Cedar), Berk. Café, (510) 548-5049, L/D, \$\$; restaurant, (510) 548-5525, \$\$\$; California, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Christopher's Café on Solano Stylishly exe cuted fusion cuisine, often combining Asian, Southwestern, and Mediterranean ingredients in a single dish. Almost every unusual combination works, with generous helpings smoothly delivered in beautiful presentations. (D.R., 4/99) 1501A Solano (at Curtis), Albany. (510) 525-1668. Fusion, L/D, \$\$,

Christopher's Nothing Fancy Café Chicken, beef, veggie, and prawn fajitas are the siz-zling specialties. Big, thick quesadillas on chipotle tortillas, a peerless chile relleno, and exceptional fresh tomato and tomatillo salexceptional tests foliato and offination sal-sas stand out on a menu of burritos, enchi-ladas, tacos, and tortilla soup. (D.R., 4/98) 1019 San Pablo (at Marin), Albany. (510) 526-1185. Mexican, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V.

Clay Pot Seafood House specialties include steaming clay pots full of fascinating broths and such ingredients as meat balls, Chinese Continued on page 40











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Eat Here Now

From page 39

sausage, and whole fish. But just about anything on the menu with "garlic," "Shanghai," or "braised" in the name is sure to float your boat. (D.R., 2/99) 809 San Pablo (near Solano), Albany. (510) 559-8976. Chinese, L/D, \$, DISC/MC/V.

Holy Land transforms falafel, hummus, tahini, tabbouleh, and other Middle Eastern standards into gourmet-quality yet home-style delights. There's also gracefully sea-soned matzo ball soup, delicate schnitzel, spicy schwarma, and perfect wide-cut french fries. (D.R., 10/98) 2965 College (at Ashby), Berk. (510) 665-1672. Middle Eastern/

Kosher, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V.

La. Bayou serves up an astounding array of authentic New Orleans staples, including jambalaya, red beans and rice, sausage or yatropadya, red beans and rice, sausage or oyster po-boys, (greaseless!) fried catfish, and homemade pralines. (D.R., 2/99) 3278
Adeline (at Alcatraz), Berk. (510) 594-9302.
Cajun/Creole, L/D, 4-\$, MC/V.

Lalime's is a long-standing institution in East Bay haute cuisine culture, but there's nothing institutional about the attentive service or the creative and gorgeous dishes.
Fixed-price dinners are available weeknights along with an à la carte menu that changes monthly. (D.R., 4/00) 1329 Gilman (at Peralta), Berk. (510) 527-9838. French/Mediterranean, D, \$\$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Mazzini is a sophisticated, reasonably priced winning combination — stylish, airy decor; smart, snappy service; and dinner dishes ranging from individual pizzas, rustic pasta, and sublime risotto to special wood ovencooked fish, lamb, pork, and beef specialties. (D.R., 12/98) 2826 Telegraph (near Oregon), Berk. (510) 848-5599. Italian, L/D, \$-\$\$,

Minokichi Such dishes as zosui (rice por ridge), hamachi nizakana (yellowtail and tofu with teriyaki sauce), and crisp, juicy hamachi kama shioyaki (salted and broiled yellowtail neck) set Minokichi far apart from your standard udon and tempura houses, (D.R., 1/00) 1403 Solano (at Carmel), Albany. (510) 559-9988. Japanese, S. AF/MC/V

La Note Unique egg dishes and pancakes, big luncheon salads, fancy baguette sandwiches, and hearty weekend dinners. We found it nearly impossible to find fault with either the ratatouille with spicy merguez lamb sausage or the bow-tie noodles topped with grilled chicken breast strips. (D.R., 2/98) 2337 Shattuck (at Durant), Berk. (510) 843-1535. Country French, B/BR/L, \$\$, AE/MC/V. Rest rooms not wheelchair accessible.

Sam's Log Cabin Daily special egg scrambles, great griddle cakes and corn cakes, and exceptional scones and muffins top the morning fare, which also includes gourmet sausage and bacon, hot and cold cereals, and organic coffee. (D.R., 8/99) 945 San Pablo Ave. (at Buchanan), Berk. (510) 558-0494.

American, B/L, ¢, no credit cards.

Santa Fe Bar and Grill Entrées include grilled stuffed chicken with butternut squash risotto and seared sea bass, and any meal that starts with a great Caesar salad is headed in the right direction, even if you know the tolls are going to be steep. (D.R., 3/98) 1310 University (between Acton and Bonar), Berk. (510) 841-4740. California/ Mediterranean, BR/L/D, \$\$, AE/DISC/

Voulez-Vous distinguishes itself with its airy Parisian-café setting and a diverse array of beautifully presented crepes and tarts. If those won't fill you up, you can start with one of the bountiful salads and finish up with one of the superb desserts. (D.R., 2/99) 2930 College (near Ashby), Berk. (510) 548-4708. French, L/D, ¢-\$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V.

Your Place If all they offered here was pad kra-prow — stir-fried chicken with basil and chili - Your Place would still be our place forever. Venture away from typical Thai menu items toward neau yang num, laab gai, blackboard specials, and at lunch, the "boat noodles" soups. (D.R., 4/98) 1267– 71 University (at Bonar), Berk. (510) 548-9781. Thai, L/D, \$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V. Not

wheelchair accessible.

Zachary's Chicago Pizza The stuffed pizza is simply out of this world — try the Zachary's special sometime. The fact that both

Zachary's outlets are always busy speaks for itself. (\$taff) 1853 Solano (at Fresno), Berk. (\$10) 525-5950; 5801 College (at Oak Grove), Berk. (\$10) 655-6385. Pizza, L/D, \$,

Oakland and Alameda

Alta Mar is a Veracruz-style seafood spot. Camerones al mojo de ajo are butterflied and humming with garlic, while pescado frito lived up to the hype. (D.R., 3/97) 1060 E. 12th St. (at 11th Ave.), Oakl. (510) 893-5122. Mexican, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V.

Arizmendi is a worker-owned bakery where bread rolls out in seemingly infinite varieties — potato, Asiago, sesame-sunflower. The pièce de résistance is the daily thin-crust, tomato sauce–free, vegetarian pizza. (D.R., 1/99) 3265 Lakeshore (at Mandana), Oakl. (510) 268-8849. Bakery, B/L/D, ¢. Not wheelchair accessible.

Asena Restaurant Good dishes at Asena, a charming Med/Cal cuisine spot, include in-dividual pizzas, and grilled marinated lamb sirloin in a burgundy-rosemary demi-glace. (D.R., 2/98) 2508 Santa Clara (at Park), Alameda. (510) 521-4100. California/Mediterranean, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Mediterranean, L/D, \$\$, AE/MC/V.

Le Cheval Shrimp rolls and peanut sauce, the fried Dungeness crab, the marinated "orange flavor" beef, the buttery lemon-grass prawns — it's all fabulous. (Staff) 1007 Clay (at 10th St.), Oakl. (510) 763-8495. Vietnamese, L/D, ¢, MC/V.

Connie's Cantina fashions unique variations on standard Mexican fare — enchiladas, tamales, fajitas, rellenos, fajitas. (D.R., 9/98) 3340 Grand (near Mandana), Oakl. (510) 839-4986. Mexican, L/D, ¢, MC/V.

Garibaldi's on College focuses on Mediter ranean-style seafood, from tantalizing appe tizers (baked oysters, scallop ceviche) to per-fectly done entrées (grilled swordfish, spaghetti with scallops and prawns). (D.R., 9/97) 5356 College (near Manilla), Oakl. (510) 595-4000. Mediterranean, L/D, \$\$,

Gerardo's Mexican Restaurant offers all the expected taquería fare plus breakfast and dinner platters — huevos rancheros, fajitas, camarones a la plancha, pescado dorado. But a main reason to visit this humble store front is to pick up a dozen of Maria's wonderfully down-home chicken or pork tamales. (D.R., 3/99) 3811 MacArthur (near 35th Ave.), Oakl. (510) 531-5255. Mexican, B/L/D, ¢-\$

Giglio combines a lively yet intimate café atmosphere with moderately priced thin-crust pizzas and wines, hearty pastas, and soups. (D.R., 9/98) 5427 College (at Kales), Oakl. (510) 594-0798. Italian, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V. Not wheelchair accessible.

Kandahar Chef-owner Daud Zaheer invests

his Afghan lamb, chicken, and vegetarian dishes with big-time love and attention and presents them beautifully at bargain prices. (D.R., 11/99) 2118 Mount Diablo Blvd. (at Pacheco), Concord. (925) 676-2243. Afghan, L/D, \$, AE/MC/V

Mama's Royal Cafe Breakfast is the draw here - even just-coffee-for-me types might succumb when confronted with waffles French toast, pancakes, tofu scramble, huevos rancheros, and 20 different omelettes. (S.R., 5/98) 4012 Broadway (at 40th St.), Oakl. (510) 547-7600. American,

La Mexicana has a 40-year tradition of stuffing its customers with delicious, simply pre-pared staples (enchiladas, tacos, tamales, pared staples (enchiadas, tacos, tamaes, chile rellenos, menudo) and specials (carnitas, chicken mole), all served in generous portions at moderate prices. (D.R., 1/97) 3930 E. 14th St., Oakl. (510) 533-8818. Mexican, L/D, ¢, MC/V.

Ninna You'll find steaks, duck breast, and pork loin on the same menu as chicken in yellow curry, as well as such intriguing and successful fusions as penne pasta "pad Thai" style and veal "Ithaila." (D.R., 2/00) 4066 Piedmont (between 40th and 41st Sts.), Oakl. (510) 601-6441. Thai Fusion, L/D, \$-

Oakland Grill remains a cornerstone of Oakland's produce district, offering break fasts, lunches, and dinners that fall somewhere between hearty blue-collar staples (steaks, pork chops, burgers) and middle-brow gourmet fare (blackened fish, pasta primavera, crepes). (D.R., 6/98) 301

Franklin (at Third St.), Oakl. (510) 835-1176. American, B/BR/L/D, \$-\$\$, AE/DC/

Organic Café and Macrobiotic Grocery This down-home animal flesh–free zone proves that lentils, pinto beans, garbanzos, and greens have plenty of flavor, as well as nutrigreens have plenty of flavor, as well as nutri-tion, when they're prepared with loving care by the Organic Cafe's rotating crew of cooks. (D.R., 11/98) 1050 40th St. (at Ade-line), Oakl. (510) 653-6510. Rest room not

wheelchair accessible. Vegetarian, BR/L/D, . AF/DISC/MC/V

Original Kasper's Hot Dogs Occupying the same tiny triangle building since 1947, Harry Yaglijian's humble and supremely hospitable little stand has one item on the menu—the best hot dog in town. (D.R., 5/98) 4521 Telegraph (at Shattuck), Oakl. (510) 655-3215. American, L/D, ¢.

Il Porcellino When faced with a menu like Il Porcellino's, which taunts the hungry diner vith pumpkin and ricotta manicotti, swordfish and shrimp ravioli, polenta with meat-balls, and leg of lamb filled with ricotta and mint, any concern for health benefits should take a backseat to hedonism. (D.R., 6/97) 6111 LaSalle (at Moraga), Oakl. (510) 339-2149. Italian, L/D, \$, AE/DC/DISC/MC/V. Restaurante Doña Tomás offers upscale versions of enchiladas (wild mushroom, zucchini, and goat cheese) and carnitas (Niman Ranch pork), as well as tantalizing chickenlime-cilantro soup and bountiful pozole. (D.R., 10/99) 5004 Telegraph (near 51st St.), Oakl. (510) 450-0522. Mexican, BR/D, \$,

Rockridge Café offers at least three good reasons not to eat hamburgers: bountiful breakfasts, a savory meat loaf special, and hearty, unpretentious Acadian cassoulet. But the archetypal hand-crafted burgers, widecut fries, and creamy, straw-clogging milk-shakes remain the cornerstones of the menu. (D.R., 12/98) 5492 College (at Forest), Oakl. (510) 653-1567. American, B/L/

D, \$, MC/V.

Sergio's Trattoria Servings are large and presented with no pretense; standards include plates of spaghetti alla Siciliana, carrettiera, puttanesca, or con polpettine (meatballs).

(D.R., 1/98) 5299 College (at Bryant), Oakl. (510) 655-2869. Italian, D, \$\$, MC/V. Sophie's offers a limited, occasionally changing menu of nouvelle French-inspired dishes, from pork tenderloin and duck à l'o-range to ginger-soy sea bass and Swiss chard ravioli. A good wine list and exceptional starters (seafood beignets) and desserts (classic chocolate mousse, almond bread pudding) round off a completely satisfying experience. (D.R., 3/00) 4228 Park Blvd. (at Wellington), Oakl. (510) 482-5303. French,

Taqueria Ramiro and Sons typically has customers lined up to the door for (mostly take-out) burritos and tacos and quesadillas. The menu nods to contemporary tastes with black beans and spinach or tomato tortilla options. (D.R., 12/99) 2321 Alameda (at Park), Alameda. (510) 523-5071. Mexican, L/D, ¢, no credit cards.

Tijuana serves big round bowls and plates teeming with shrimp, crab, octopus, and fish — in cocktails, salads, and soups. The place is usually packed and loud, but friendly servers, good salsa, and Mexican beer at \$2.50 a pop more than compensate for the noise. (D.R., 3/98) 1308 International Blvd. (at 13th Ave.), Oakl. (510) 532-5575. Mexican, L/D, \$, MC/V. Not wheelchair accessible

Tropix After a hunk of warm cornbread slathered in mango chutney, dig into a heap of spicy grilled jerk chicken, or wallow in the wonders of the shrimp pawpaw: curried vegetables and fat shrimp piled up over meltingly ripe papaya. (S.R., 5/98) 3814 Piedmont (at W. MacArthur), Oakl. (510) 653-2444. Caribbean, L/D, \$, AE/DC/MC/V, Patio not wheelchair accessible.

Veronica's Regulars fill up the 23 seats for the daily specials of corned beef and cabbage or the spicy Friday barbecue, as well as huge portions of "gramma's" meat loaf, "Louisiana style" catfish, "Moon Shiner's mustard glazed" baked ham, and the few concessions to nouvelle tastes, like the chipotle chicken salad and portabello mush-room sandwiches. (D.R., 2/00) 1601 San Pablo (at 16th St.), Oakl. (510) 834-7161. American, L/D, ¢, DC/V/MC. ❖

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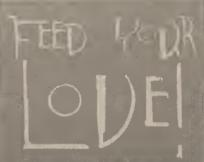
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日放 映 Frank Lee: "I think that if Ang Lee did not direct Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, it would not have gone mainstream." he Hong Kong DVD of Bay Guardian: So what do you think of Crouching Tiger, Hidden all this excitement surrounding Dragon, released just last week, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon? can be viewed in either Frank Lee: Basically, it's good for us, Mandarin, Cantonese, or with right? Hopefully, we'll attract a new

a troublesome English-language dub job. Watch it this way (as millions eventually will on home video, airplanes, and cable TV), and Ang Lee's wildly acclaimed film is exposed as a perfectly ordinary martial arts movie, more Black Belt Theater than Best Picture material.

That may sound like the proverbial tea-house scene boast ("My money kung fu is better than your tiger style") to some, but not necessarily to Frank Lee, who's been watching these films all his life and began operating the Four Star theater in 1992, where he's been dedicated to screening kung fu and sword epics from Hong Kong, Taiwan, and Japan. Anyone who has made an effort to keep up with the resulting avalanche of film history and eyepopping action could tell you that Crouching Tiger is no big deal compared to the real deal.

As Lee kicks off another round of primo flying-wire fu and stuntman abuse in his "Hidden Dragons" series of H.K. keepers and rarities, it seemed like a good time to ask him a few questions about the past, present, and future of the martial arts film.

And as for Ang Lee, here's hoping that his upcoming version of The Incredible Hulk will be music to the ears when viewed in Chinese.

audience and educate them. There's more to Hong Kong films than Jet Li and Jackie Chan. My family has been showing these films for the past 30

Groutening tigers

Four Star's Frank Lee takes Crouching Tiger

to school with his "Hidden Dragons" series.

By Patrick Macias

the N.Y. Times and the Chronicle gave it bad reviews. They didn't like those kinds of films back then. Now, of course, they all love martial arts films.

BG: And what's not to like?

FL: Well, the flying around on wires. People have strong reactions the first time they see that style. When I first saw those kinds of films, I said.

Wuxia means "martial world," and it's a kind of popular novel which is really long and has lots of characters. With other H.K. films, if you don't know the story line beforehand, or if you are non-Chinese, it can be real hard to follow. But Ang Lee kept it simple with only three or four characters, which was good. But the action was, uh, just OK.

hroke down the essence of wuxia.

BG: I felt the same way. But we're both jaded.

FL: Things like budget and special effects have really changed these kinds of films. In the old days it was really dependent on people. Take stuntmen, for instance. That's the real thing. In those old Jimmy Wang Yu movies, when he hits people, they would take a fall or get hit, and they would make you believe it because it was the real thing. Now it's more dependent on camerawork and special effects. It's very cartoonish, which is a trend I think Tsui Hark started with Zu: Warriors from the Magic Mountain [1983]. It looks like this sort of thing is catching on again in Taiwan. There's a lot of new martial arts movies going into production.

BG: What about audiences? How have they changed?

FL: I think hard-core fans will always support this stuff. The same people keep coming back for these kinds of films, But I've had people coming up to me in the theater, saying, "I saw Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon," and I told them, "Well, we've been showing this sort of thing for a long time," and they say, "Oh yeah, I know." "So how come you saw that one," I'd ask, and they'd say, "Because of Ang Lee."

BG: So what do you consider to be among the best martial arts movies?

FL: Over the last couple of years, I'd have to say Tsui Hark's The Blade [1995]. The Ti Lung movie Warrior's Tragedy [1993] was really good too. I like the Jimmy Wang Yu stuff. He was a pioneer.

BG: But why didn't The Blade become a massive hit? Because on the surface, both Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon and The Blade are martial arts movies in Mandarin with English subtitles.

FL: Distribution. It wasn't picked up by a major distributor. Now if you look at Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, they are showing it at the AMCs, the Galaxy — they never show stuff like this! — the Vogue, the Empire. It's everywhere!

BG: So on what basis were the films in your "Hidden Dragons" series selected?

FL: Well, we've got some films also shot by Peter Pao, like Bride with White Hair [1993]. Films with direction and choreography by Yuen Woo-ping, like Tiger Cage 2 [1990] and Fire Dragon [1994]. Then we've got some Tsui Hark and Jet Li stuff.

BG: By the way, what did you think of Chow's Man larin?

FL: [Laughs] Chow was just standing around. You know, they are trying to make a sequel now without him.

BG: The rumor is it's supposed to be a prequel. They should get Ekin Cheng — Hong Kong's most wooden actor – to play young Chow.

FL: Yeah, that would be good. ❖

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years now. This goes back to the theater my father owned in Chipatown [the Belle Union] during the mid '60s. But there's one thing in particular that I've been thinking about. You know Cheng Pei-Pei? She plays the evil woman, Jade Fox, in Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. She starred in King Hu's Come Drink with Me [1965, literal U.S. title: Big Drunk Hero]. I remembered some of the reviews from non-Chinese critics were really negative. Kevin Thomas hated it. The headline said something like "Come Drink with Me Not a Good Imitation." I think also

"Man, it doesn't look real! It's all phony." But after 30 years people have finally gotten used to it. It's part of the culture now. But to be honest with you, I think that if Ang Lee did not direct Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, it would not have gone mainstream. If this film was not made by Lee, Sony would not have picked it up. He has a following, and his name has value.

BG: So is there anything you see as being innovative in Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon?

FL: The thing I liked about it was the dramatic structure. Ang Lee really

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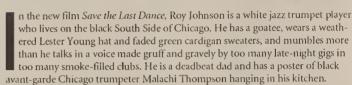
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Cool jazz



There was a time, in the '40s and '50s, when Roy would have epitomized cool as the outcast white boho who chooses to live on the jazz margins of afterhours urban blackness. But now he's just a relic — crusty, outmoded, and irrelevant, a specter creeping in an Eminem world.

Roy's ballet-dancing daughter Sara, whose story Save the Last Dance tells, has just moved in with him after the death of her mother, has just started attending

the local black high school in Roy's neighborhood, and has just realized that in order to be cool — or as we're told, "slammin'" — she must be schooled in hip-hop. Before long she's rehearsing ballet moves to Biggie and dropping beats on a Juilliard audition. That Roy plays jazz doesn't make him cool to Sara. When Sara's black boyfriend, her hip-hop tutor, comes over to Roy's rundown apartment, he wrinkles his brow at the music and tells her he's not a fan.

The tenets of cool have always been rooted in blackness and brokered by whiteness — Roy and Sara are both who they are because of their involvement with black music — but as Sara's coolness eclipses Roy's, we also see that the tenets always change: from trumpets to turntables, from the white and black men typi-

Cool's jazz
is the jazz
of shadow
dwellers and
basement
scientists,
of playing "out"
as a way
of living out.

cally at the center of cool's histories to the white and black girls at the center of cool's futures (*Save*'s opening weekend audience was 80 percent girls, 30 percent of whom were black). In Lewis MacAdams's new book, *Birth of the Cool: Beat, Bebop, and the American Avant-Garde*, one of the numerous points he makes about the cultural history of cool is that cool is mercurial, hopping from outsider locale to outsider locale, always on the run from squares and Gap ads.

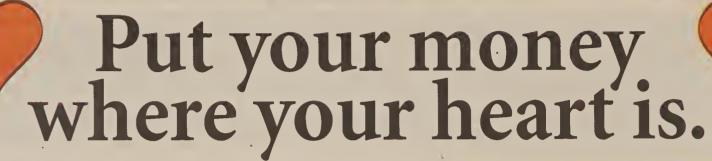
No matter what citizen of cool MacAdams gets to know — Jackie McLean or Jack Kerouac, Chano Pozo or John Cage — cool remains a stylistic space of kinship where avant-minded whites take cues from blacks who had to be avant-minded to survive, who had to strike a cool pose (in Amiri Baraka's wonderful phrase "silent, yet knowing") as armor in a war of dehumanization they were never supposed to win. MacAdams, a white poet and journalist from Texas who lit out for the cool of New York, is part of it too. Cool, he says of himself, was "a ticket out of the life! felt closing in all around me."

Birth of the Cool takes its title from The Birth of the Cool, the 1957 "cool jazz" classic (just reissued yet again by Capitol) produced by the pairing of black trumpet player Miles Davis and white arranger Gil Evans. MacAdams tells us that by 1957 Davis had already been to Paris and had already fallen in love with Juliette Greco, a white chanteuse who sang to clubs full of Europe's version of cool: Sartrean existentialists. The pairings of Miles and Greco, then Miles and Evans, are foundational, exemplary moments for MacAdams's trajectory of cool as an American margin marker, the secret bonding code between black and white avant-gardes of artistic innovation.

No matter where cool goes in *Birth*, it always resonates with jazz. But the jazz of cool is not Ken Burns–PBS jazz, not the Louis Armstrong–to–Duke Ellington tradition that Burns and his chief ideologue, Wynton Marsalis, have boxed up and institutionalized as the music of the "American gumbo." Cool's jazz is the Minton's agit-bop of Miles Davis, Dizzy Gillespie, Thelonious Monk, and Charlie Parker; it's the jazz of shadow dwellers and basement scientists, of heroin highs and tilted berets and Yoruban chants, of playing "out" as a way of living out — jazz that peeps the gumbo pot but wants to make a bowl of its own instead.

The Burns–Marsalis–Lincoln Center refrain is that jazz is "America's music," stamping national ownership on an art created by postslavery American blacks precisely because they weren't allowed full participation in America. When heard through the ear of cool, jazz is music in response to America, in the face of America, music that instead of accepting the America in front of it created (to borrow a phrase from cool guru William Burroughs) a "potential America" instead.

"Whose foot has been in my ass?" Birth of the Cool quotes Dizzy Gillespie as asking himself when the government tries to draft him. "The white man's foot has been buried in my asshole up to his knee." It's what Burns misses, MacAdams gets, and Save the Last Dance ignores. The art of jazz is removing that foot. The art of cool is making it look like it never happened. *



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Fontanel of youth

George Washington chases a dream. By Susan Gerhard

hen the hand moves to the temple, you know you're reaching that point in a movie when the ever ready migraine's about to be put to use. Cue up the Quiet Riot power chord. This person has some deep shit on their mind

A different kind of headache throbs at the core of David Gordon Green's wholly original George Washington. George (Donald Holden) is a quiet kid who walks around in a Knute Rocknestyle football helmet because he has to be careful — his skull never fused to cover his soft spot. That spot is the marshy center, the danger zone, of Green's lush, laconic trip through the emotional landscape of childhood, and you're never quite sure who's going to be rescued from it. Has there ever been a better metaphor for human frailty - or, actually, a more literal depiction of it - than the heart beating up through an exposed brain?

George Washington meditates on that heartbeat and concentrates all the confusion and all the truth of adoles-

cence into a raw, ravishing 89 minutes. With the understated omniscience of 12-year-old Nasia (Candace Evanofski) in the Days of Heaven-Linda Manz voice-over role, we learn that the kids are "looking for clues" as they hurdle over fences and wrestle in various kinds of wreckage. To what, we don't know, but the mysteries of life are rife here. Unlike other fashionable adultless films cruising over wasted landscapes of the past decade — the nihilistic Kids and the unrepentant Gummo - George Washington worships every piece of evidence its characters come up with.

Their world is a negativeland and at the same time a shrine of garbage heaps, swimming pools, and rusted train tracks. A dog of unknown origin gets fed Gummi Bears and syrup on a bagel; that's compassion. A 10-year-old skinny white girl steals a car to escape as an act of contrition. A pet-killing adult makes a peace offering of a hat made of the dead animal's fur.

George Washington's grandeur comes in major part because it's filmed by "im Orr with the kind of extravagance usually reserved for Imax Everest-type events. This other Other America is so beautiful in its destitution, so, I don't know, prayerful, that every frame feels like it's about to host a space landing. We sit in awe, watching huge excavating machines pick up massive heaps of trash, and a few minutes seem to pass by. We don't mind.

The story creeps in the same way the kids wander: stealthily and unpredictably. George wants to be a hero — and looks like one, in his wrestling singlet and helmet, with a Superman sheet knotted around his neck — and he expresses that desire by doing things like taking notes on his guardian uncle's "fire hazard" backyard and running elaborate checks on the house's smoke alarms. A hero, he says, "is wise, strong, and very talented. They should also have a list of dangerous and poisonous things. I'm a hero because I like to save people's lives - stuff like that."

The dialogue feels natural as well as naturalistic — a feat, given how many

Child's play: George Washington examines the purity and pure hell of childhood as depicted in the explorations of Nasia (Candace Evanofski) and George (Donald Holden).

have tried and failed — and the words spoken by these preteens seem to have developed organically from their own worldviews. The cast — found in streets, churches, and barbecues, as opposed to sterile audition rooms — lived and worked together in a house as a "family" during the production, the filmmakers say, and the conflict and community that arose during that time feels rough — and right — on film. As when a man complains to his wife, "Why is it every time you start talking, you sound like you're gonna cry?

But for the most part, the adults' acting is generally so wooden, they might as well be saying, "Wah wah wah." Charles Burnett by way of Charles Schulz, the film has Killer of Sheep's instincts for darkness and

complexity mixed with its mostly African American child cast of wellmeaning seekers. What they find — horror, splendor, trash — comes wrapped in the mixed messages of a great filmmaker: endless vistas, gorgeous lighting, and a foreboding soundtrack.

Childhood is both pure and pure hell here, the way it was when you lived it. "Maybe if no one would look after him, at least they'd look at him," the narrator says of her crush, George, who just wants to protect us. The miracle is, by the end of this supersaturated film, you will probably believe in his power to do it. *

'George Washington' opens Fri/26. See Rep Clock for theaters and show times.

The I-land of Jeanne Moreau

Buñuel's restored *Diary of a Chambermaid* fits Moreau like a Chanel basic black. *By Dennis Harvey*

here was a great photo last week in a Hollywood trade magazine of Jeanne Moreau, taken sometime during the Jan. 10 Paris ceremony at which she was inducted as the Academie des Beaux Arts' very first female member. (What was the holdup last century?) She's dolled up: hair fluffed, no-doubtterribly-expensive pantsuit vaguely in the realm of chinoiserie, face shiny with applications. And goddamn if she doesn't look every inch a woman who's never had a delighted, let alone unguarded, moment in her life. The pupils are shoved sideways, the posture rigid with boredom, all wind has been sucked out of the cheeks, and the lips are pursed in such caricatured disdain, you might think she's about to suck all that makeup off without so much as lifting a finger. And then to bed, with the most, the only, fascinating person in the room. The image doesn't so much say "It's great to be me" as "Christ, it must be hell to be the rest of you.'

Well, the French, they are funny. Moreau is a great lady, a legend, albeit more in the tradition of Juno, Medusa, and Salome than, say, Eleanor Roosevelt or even Bette Davis. She carries a considerable history and iconic weight. I confess both have always struck me as irrefutable facts rather than causes for

enthusiasm. But the world would be a dozen or more great films poorer without her - or they would be very different films, at the least. One of them, Luis Buñuel's 1964 Diary of a Chambermaid, returns in the requisite restored print to the Castro this week. And its refined fuck-all-ness fits her like a Chanel basic black.

The late-period Buñuel had a penchant for distanced women on-screen, deploying blank-slate beauties for their opacity when thinkier ones like Moreau, Delphine Seyrig, or (borderline case) Catherine Deneuve could not be engaged. If his sexual politics look suspect now — when didn't they? it must be said that the few major actresses he used were encouraged, if not simply hired, to stare back with equal or greater suspicion.

At this point Moreau was the clear if slightly bewildering queen of the nouvelle vague, having followed 10 years' indifferent screen apprenticeship with a sudden run of unprecedented movies for Louis Malle (Lift to the Scaffold, The Lovers), Truffaut (Jules and Jim), Vadim (Dangerous Liaisons), Antonioni (La Notte), Demy, Welles, and others. The gravitational pull age exerted on her looks suited a personality that, one assumes, had never been very jeune fille; just so, her sexually experienced (as opposed to

"sexy") disaffection clicked for filmmakers poking around the couch of modern adult ennui. In wildly varied, memorable features. Moreau was usually the cold flame around which others got burnt, a result that could only confirm her innate disappointment.

As the titular chambermaid — not that you'd ever really believe her servitude, even as a day job - Moreau traces another dour progression from "Hmm, we'll see ..." to "Yep — thought so." Of course Bunuel populates the movie with fools worth watching expose themselves, chasing the very banana peel that orchestrates their fall. Celestine (Moreau) arrives from Paris (a morally questionable point of origin she's never allowed to forget about) as the new maid at a country estate carefully voided of even decrepit charm. Her employers are certainly idle, if not particularly rich: the elderly Mr. Rabour (Jean Ozenne) is a boot fetishist; his daughter (Françoise Lugagne) is frustrated to the point of incessant, banal bitchery, driven on by a husband (Michel Piccoli) who's a garden-variety lech. Nor is the general character much elevated in the servants' quarters, where petty jealousies and gossip hold sway, not least in the tiny mind of gamekeeper Joseph (Georges Géret), the exact xenophobic bully from which popular fascism eternally springs.

Celestine floats above all this dreck, both attracting and infuriating all for failing to be sullied. Not that she's particularly virtuous; it's just that these countryside games are so, well, "dreary." But when Joseph's minor-league sadism takes a major turn, she finds a project — justice — worth her time.

Assiduously avoiding sentimentality, Diary has the grimly amused inevitability of all Buñuel, even if its material hails from a turn-of-thecentury French novel (already filmed once by Renoir, with Paulette Goddard as a very different chambermaid). Ticking like clockwork in black-and-white Franscope, the movie has the classical, prenew-wave feel of typical Gallic bucolic seriocomedy, though with a far sneakier mule's kick. The church, nationalism, militarism, and sex as a tactical transaction (or bourgeois secret) all suffer the

filmmaker's usual barbed scrutiny. Through it all, Moreau is at once unconvincing and ideal - cool, disdainful, just passing through, but every bit as sure she'll leave her mark on these inferiors as Buñuel is certain they deserve it. Only the ending rings false: because Celestine's triumph is still nothing that Jeanne Moreau would ever, ever settle for. *

'Diary of a Chambermaid' plays daily Fri/26-Thurs/1, 7 and 9:15 p.m. (also Wed. and Sat.-Sun., 1:30 and 4:15 p.m.), Castro, 429 Castro, S.F. (415) 621-6120.



Remote control: Jeanne Moreau rises disdainfully above her surroundings as Celestine, in Diary of a Chambermaid.







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On the surface

Tallulah has little to offer beyond Kathleen Turner's riveting presence. By Brad Rosenstein

obody has ever known Tallulah Bankhead," Tennessee Williams once said. 'At least, they have never written about her in a way that showed any real comprehension of her nature." Sandra Ryan Heyward takes a stab at it in her one-person play Tallulah, which attempts to paint a portrait of the wit and the fury, the star and the survivor, the compassionate friend and the lonely alcoholic. Despite a career that was much more miss than hit, during which she cultivated a celebrity more notable for offstage antics than great performances, Bankhead remains an enduring legend of golden-age glamour, a tough-as-nails diva whom many friends have also recalled as a truly "gallant gent."

All of those facets make an appearance in Tallulah, but there's little to unite them or make them matter beyond the megawatt presence of star Kathleen Turner. The play, set in 1948 for no particular reason, tries to make a dramatic crisis out of Bankhead's firing the brilliant but erratic Marlon Brando from her current play, only to have him turn up with her friend Tennessee and A Streetcar Named Desire. While preparing for an all-star fundraising party for President Harry S. Truman that will end in disaster, Tallulah dishes with us "dahlings" about sex, drugs, booze, stardom, and her pipe dream of abandoning her

fading acting career for politics. Voluptuous and commanding, Turner chews up and spits out this flimsy script like a veteran gladiator on amateur night. She makes little pretense of imitating Bankhead --her own throaty voice and an uneven Southern accent help evoke Tallulah's smoky bell tones - but is clearly endeavoring to find the soul of this woman beyond the razor quips and bitch-goddess caricature. Heyward's script, however, is content to plod on its predictable monodrama way, devoid of depth, surprise, or dramatic iustification.

Director Michael Lessac propels Turner around Derek McLane's richly campy diva lair (complete with sensuous drapes and nude male statuary), but to little avail. Tallulah bears a more than passing resemblance to Full Gallop, Elizabeth Ashley's turn as Diana Vreeland a few seasons back, and the last thing this town needs is another fading-but-

spunky-star-plotting-her-comeback story. Bankhead was a complex original who deserves better, and Turner is a powerhouse actor who is capable of so much more than this manipulative vehicle allows. I'd love to see her back here soon in a drama worthy of her talents.

Ironically, a play in which Turner appeared to acclaim on Broadway is making its bow across the bay: Indiscretions, Jeremy Sams's 1994 translation of Jean Cocteau's Les parents terribles, is now at Marin Theatre Company, Considered thrillingly shocking at its Paris premiere in 1938, and only slightly less so in Cocteau's film version 10 years later, Les parents terribles is a companion piece to his Les enfants terribles. The play is a closed world of private neuroses and mythic decadence, childlike adults and vice versa, deadly game playing and bohemian amorality, all familiar weapons from Cocteau's dramatic arsenal.

Reframing the Oedipus myth in the guise of a boulevard tragicomedy, Cocteau shows us the voracious mother, Yvonne (Deborah Offner), who can barely contain her passionate love for her son, Michael (David Agranov), while virtually ignoring her ineffectual inventor husband, George (Warren David Keith). Yvonne flies into a jealous rage when Michael finds a girlfriend, Madeleine (Jenny Lord), and enlists her spinster sister, Leonine, to help break up the liaison. But Leo has always carried a torch for

George, and George has a secret mistress who turns out to be Madeleine, and no one, it seems, is in love with the "right" person.

Belle of the ball: Kathleen Turner is voluptuous

and commanding as tough-as-nails actress Tallulah Bankhead in *Tallulah*.

Amy Glazer's direction admirably captures the play's surreal hothouse atmosphere but falters in its pace and has a hard time sustaining this nearly three-hour evening. Offner is splendid as the childishly obsessed Yvonne, simultaneously funny and mortifying in her tenacity. But although the rest of the fine cast all work hard, they only fitfully land in the play. On the night I saw it, the production's Leonine, Frances Lee McCain, had a family emergency, and Livia Genise stepped in on a few hours' notice. Working script-in-hand, Genise acquitted herself admirably, but it's hard to know how the ensemble's chemistry was affected. In the era of Jerry Springer, Cocteau's play has lost its power to shock, and it resolves untidy matters a bit too tidily. But at its best it makes a dysfunctional family nightmare deliciously palpable, a lucid, unsettling dream. 🌣

'Tallulah.' Through Feb 11. Tues.-Sat., 8 p.nr. (also Wed/24, Wed/31, Feb. 7, 2 p.m.); Sun., 2 p.m., Curran Theatre, 445 Geary, S.F. \$33-\$57. (415) 551-2000.

'Indiscretions.' Through Sun/4. Tues.-Thurs., 7:30 p.m.; Fri.-Sat., 8 p.m. (also Sat/3, 2 p.m.); Sun., 2 and 7 p.m., Marin Theatre Company, 397 Miller, Mill Valley. \$24-\$40. (415) 388-5208.



dilettante by Summer Burkes

weren't pacifists all, we probably would

have another civil war on our hands. The line for the portajohn stretches half

the block, and people start screaming into the microphone, and since our feet

are tired and we know what they're all

going to say, we split. We catch up with

the dance party, which has moved on to

Turk and Gough. While the majority of

the horde has stayed at the park, an ad-

march on, and the dancing ones don't

seem to want to move to the sidewalk.

Another line of cops on horses stares

ditional thousand or so attendees

Politics, unusual

t Friday's I Am Spoonbender show at the Great American Music Hall, all the hype about the local band's rare live performances proves true. The crowd — chiefly skinny, fashionable music nerds who might have all just stepped out of a very slick commercial about very cool things — leans heavily toward shag cuts, off-kilter hemlines, inventive eye makeup, and glam rock androgyny.

Knights over Egypt is the first of the four handpicked opening acts. An electro—new wave trio whose name is an obvious reference to the great Egyptian Lover, Knights also flirts with the sounds of the Cars, Falco, J.J. Fad, and Trans Am. The lead singer, chic in a narrow white suit and mop hair, croons through an '80s-effected mic, and both the synth and bass players look like the cute badboys in Weird Science. Like all the other mostly boy acts tonight, they go light on the testosterone, and they take us back and push us forward at the same time.

Wetgate, a DJ-programmer with a red-light headpiece that makes him look like an unhooded Ewok, layers loops over loops as a screen in front of him does the same thing with film. The music has no regimented structure or beat - it sounds like a hip-hop concert with no skeleton. (It's not like seeing a painting; it's like watching someone paint.) Slaves, another three-piece rock band, relies on metal as much as it does new wave, calling up shades of Morphine, Fu Manchu, Tom Waits, Soul Coughing, and Zen Frisbee. Kid 606 a man and his laptop, basically - repeats the Wetgate theme but with more electronic sounds and less (i.e., no) fanfare. "The future is now," this gig seems to scream, but like the Jetsons taking a pill instead of actually eating food, watching a man program his laptop doesn't feel substantial somehow. The end "song" sounds like electronic cockroaches crawling all over everything.

Then Gary Numan plays over the loudspeaker, and all the highest-phylum music geeks begin to squirm. Smoke machines pour out a low fog, and two yellow spotlights reveal a shitload of gear. A full two minutes of silence pass, then a guitarist cuts a silhouette through the smoke and light beams. Atmospheric space noises issue forth ("Dream Weaver," anyone?), and I Am Spoonbender appears in its entirety, decked in matching white jackets. The band explodes into a controlled math rock fury that would make both King Crimson and Man ... or Astroman? beam with pride. Accentuated by white rectangles of scrim that change color, lead singer-drummer-synth player Dustin Donaldson warbling through the band's trademark telephone receivers, all four members of the band in possession of at least one synthesizer, I Am Spoonbender epitomizes the new face of new-wave-rock-trip-space-industroindie. I don't have any of their records yet, but I'm going to soon.

Saturday, we arrive late to meet the What, Me President? faction of the George W. Bush inauguration protest. We power-walk from the Embarcadero to the cable car turnaround, where we catch the avant-garde cavalcade just as a homeless woman is assaulting Bishop Joey, the founder of the Church of Stupid and he whose brainchild today's parade was, while he speaks on the bull-horn. "Gimme a B!" the Bishop says after finally wrangling free, and the crowd thusly spells "B-U-S-H-I-T."

As tourists waiting for the cable car stare quizzically and scramble for their video cameras, Bishop Joey warns us that there's a rolling blackout coming, whereupon we all cover our eyes with our hands and turn around in circles. He leads the conglomeration in the "Texas Three Step," a dance where we take one step forward into the future, then two steps back into the past. We waltz for a while, then weave in and out of the pilings and on the cable car tracks before continuing on our way.

We march along, and someone plays "Yankee Doodle Dandy" on a tin whistle. (Perfect.) We pass by some dancing crackheads and curious stereo shop owners, and the whistler switches to "Yes, We Have No Bananas," inspiring the first of many impromptu singalongs of the day. There are rainbow clown wigs, Nixon masks, upside-down flags flying, ladies in red, a couple Ren Faire jesters, Jesus H. Christ, an official alien suit (by Ronco), and Satan in a business three-piece, who brandishes a pitchfork with a jar of piss built into it.

A woman in a blue cowboy hat, while being pushed in a shopping cart, leads a sing-along of "The Hokey Pokey." We stop at an intersection, obeying the laws of traffic, and one bystanding Vietnam vet joins the parade, getting into it, suggesting to a couple participants that we start a new civil war. A man in a pinstripe suit and a creepy Alfred E. Neuman head-mask holds up three fingers for "W." Half the members of the procession carry handmade signs:

Not Just Another Smiling Affluent Jerk; Ladies Love Dick; All Hail President Snippy; R U 4 Baby Jesus?; Hail to the Thief — King George 2; Bushit!; Don't Blame Me — I Voted for the Majority; Mommy! Why won't Daddy buy me a Presidency?; We've Been Bushwhacked!; Ladies Against Women Re-Elect Gore.

At United Nations Plaza we pass another example of the right to freedom of expression — a group of teenagers with a "Give Your Life to Jesus" sign and rockband equipment — and the two factions leave each other alone. One dude in an elaborate Satan/Darth Maul—ish mask pushes downstream through the gathering, holding aloft a sign that says "My Boy Won." Per Bishop Joey's command, "the parade rests" in the Plaza: the entire herd stops mid-march and sits down. A real five marching band plays tunes to roust the crowd, and parade-goers

lounge and roll around and chat and dance and pet dogs. A black-clad bride in full veil and American flag cape bangs on her elaborately painted bass drum; a man in an orange prison jumpsuit and suit coat keeps the rhythm on his briefcase, which says "Corporate Criminals for Dubva."

Rested, the parade heads up to **City Hall** through the outdoor corridor lined with outdoor alcoholics. The band

watches over the proceedings, blocking off one of the streets, and a jail bus sits quietly, as a warning, on the deserted avenue. We the uninformed didn't know this was the plan, but everyone begins to exit the plaza en masse — there's a march through town! We follow the throng, being careful to stay with the Stupids, occasionally getting mired in with the NOW crowd, the big-money-oil protesters, the Green party, the Palestine people, and whoever else strolls by. People continuously stop my companion, who is dressed in a smart suit and expensive cowboy hat, to take pictures of him. He presses the flesh. "George!" people

at the proceedings from the top of the hill. Then two dozen cops on loud motorbikes charge into crowd-control formation from the gas station on Franklin, endeavoring to free up the streets. Then, on Van Ness, five cop cars come, sirens screaming, from all directions and line up in the blockedoff turn lane. Twenty cops pour out of the cars in Mad Max uniforms with big sticks. "Soon as we get enough people, we're gonna take Van Ness again," one rabble-rouser from the throng whispers to us, but we have to pee. Sure enough, they do take it. The cops, smartly, just let them, diverting traffic as gridlock occurs and helpless control freaks in BMWs lay on horns, as if that would help anything. One activist stands on the median and holds up an enormous "Bushlost.org" sign.

Standing with rubberneckers across the street, we learn that all of the Bush Street signs this morning have been changed to say "Puppet." "The fact is," one conservative-looking tourist says aloud, "none of this is going to change the fact that George W. Bush is now the president." "Yes, we know," I say, simplifying, "but it makes us all feel better."

Saturday night, the Lab hosts Good Guy/Bad Guy, a multimedia musicalplay-film-performance that almost defies description. Staged by RK Corral, the production applies the slow-asmolasses Western genre to a Bizarro World settlement town threatened by bankruptcy owing to a shifty mayor's extravagant personal spending habits (ahem) and a dim-witted, cowboy boot-wearing sheriff who couldn't law-enforce his way out of a wet paper bag (ahem twice). The plot is B-movie thin, but the effects are stunning: the three-piece live band plays octopus with a host of bizarre instruments; a surreal slide show with photographs and handmade miniatures replaces the "action"; the four-person "extreme enactment" ensemble accompanies the "film" live. We get virginal milkmaids, inbred town folk, shit-and-feathercovered authority figures, creepy little E.T.-gone-bad sidekicks, dirty town whores, superheroes who wear no pants, and mutant cows with bubbling skin, patches of hair, human noses and mouths, glass eyes, and big toes for feet.

It makes almost as much sense as real life. ❖

To Dante — rest in peace, friend. May all of hell raise a toast in your honor, and may all of heaven reach for their earplugs when they see you coming. We'll all miss you.



plays "When the Saints Go Marching In," thereby completing the Mardi-Gras-funeral-for-America vibe. The **San Francisco Mime Troupe** joins up with the Stupid faction, large banner aloft, and we all march across the wide street to **Civic Center Plaza**.

Because of our position in the throng, we can't see until we arrive that almost the entire plaza is filled with serious protesters, who immediately disperse the silly vibes with actual anger, outrage, worry, and fear. The marching band appropriately (and probably not mockingly) breaks into "We Shall Overcome," and every student, activist, liberal, old hippie, new hippie, and concerned American citizen within earshot joins in singing the words. I secretly wish that I had worn flowers in my hair today.

Real signs in Civic Center:

Not My President; www.fearbush .com; www.bushstolethepresidency .com; Fuck Bush; Kiss My Oil Assets; Stop Bush's Coup; I'd Rather Inaugurate My Diaper; Babies Against Stupid Grownups; Fixed Election = Broken Democracy; Texas Bar-B-Q — Thanks Dad! (with a hand-drawn picture of someone frying in an electric chair); End the Racist Death Penalty; Bush + Dick = Screwed.

The mood in the shadow of City Hall is somber to the point of mournful, and the air is heavy with the dread of a new Republican era, but the Stupids lighten it a bit with some clown noses, buck teeth, and steadfastly cheerful, interpretively interpretive dancing around the bass drum. A row of cops on horses calmly

call to him. "Yes, thank you, I'll be oppressing you shortly," he says, waving congenially. One man sets up camp along the parade route and sells upsidedown American flags.

It's completely surreal to walk down the middle of a deserted Van Ness Avenue on Saturday afternoon with thousands of other people on foot. Everyone should try it.

After overtaking the largest boulevard in town, the procession turns onto Grove and marches on. We stop at Turk and Laguna to marvel that the protest stretches up as far as our eyes can see, and then turn to see the same scene behind us. We watch all the causes, each one worthy, parade by. "This is so rad, dude," one skater near us says. "Thousands of people that *know* how fucked our country is, all banded together against bullshit."

Finally we get to **Jefferson Square Park**, where the rally is set to end, and sidle up to a fence to people-watch some more. Protesters flood onto the lawn and up the hill, crowding in to make room. We hear the faint rumble of a booming bass, then see a faction of the flock start to bounce, then see the sign: "The Only Party We Support Is a Street Party." A bicycle with a trailered sound system thunders by like the urban Pied Piper, festooned with spray paint-stencilled flags that say "Live," "Play," "Free."

The park fills with people, and again it's truly a sight to behold. The entire population of berkeley seems to be in attendance. If these 15,000 activists

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music

Getting a grip

The women of the Kirby Grips bring strong, very different sensibilities to the band — and somehow it works. *By Michelle Goldberg*

t's the oldest rocker-girl story there is: a chick gets tired of being the girlfriend or the sister or the mascot, of watching the boys play and dealing with their condescension when she picks up an instrument. So she gets her girlfriends together, and they have a blast teaching themselves, getting better and more serious the more they jam, writing songs that no boy band ever could.

What makes the Bay Area band the Kirby Grips (whose name is British slang for bobby pins) special is the girls that founder and bassist Liz Byrne — who has roots in punk and underground rock recruited when she got sick of just watching the guys. Rather than finding two totally like-minded friends, she brought in singer and guitarist China Tamblyn, a folky songwriter reared on Bob Dylan and Neil Young, and singer-drummer Michele Kappel, a soigné retro girl with a passion for black-andwhite movies, vintage clothes, and rockabilly. Each has a distinct look, like hipster Spice Girls: Tamblyn has long, wavy blond hair, minimal makeup, and an earth-girl glow that comes in part from being several months pregnant. Kappel is a coiffed redhead with short bangs and perfect red bow lips, and Byrne is a black-haired live wire.

Yet despite their surface differences, Byrne had no doubt that the three should be playing together. As she says over ice cream at the old-school Mission soda fountain the St. Francis, she wanted to move beyond straightforward indie rock and was sure Tamblyn and Kappel's almost opposing aesthetics would help "bring it to a different level." Both are "strong women, and they have strong personalities," she says. "And it worked out! At first they were apprehensive, and then they just started to blossom. It was

Initially, Byrne used "brute force" to bring them all together, according to Kappel. "I didn't know anything about the rock scene," she says. She was into the swing thing, and her only experience performing music was with a theater company. "When we were first going to practice, I thought, 'I don't know if this is really me. I don't want to be in a rock band like Hole or something.' But my friend Penny said, 'You might meet some nice new people.' And I did!"

For her part, Tamblyn was incredibly shy and didn't want to sing in front of anyone, but Byrne kept bothering her. Tamblyn recalls,







On beyond indie: The Kirby Grips — from top, China Tamblyn, Liz Byrne, and Michele Kappel — have distilled from disparate influences a wide-ranging sound of their own.



"She would send us harassing notes saying, 'Let's rock!'" When they finally did get together, their styles magically meshed, and since 1995 the trìo has been creating ultracatchy, sweet-and-sour power-pop confections with riot grrrl energy, sweet Shirelles harmonies, and torch-singer pathos.

Their 2000 album, The Cherry Stem Concertos, begins with the jangly classic pop of "Tie It into a Knot," a song written by Tamblyn that recalls the Pretenders, and moves into Breeders territory with the spare, angular "S'Nuggett." Later on, they go old-fashioned country with a lush, pining cover of the '50s rockabilly track "My Confession" (originally by Janis Martin, who had a brief vogue five decades ago as "The Female Elvis"). Other tracks combine many of their disparate influences: "I'm Wasting" is a raw, pained garage-rock song sweetened by girl-group backing vocals. On "Restraining Order," they deliver what is surely the most insouciant song ever about being stalked, a track sure to delight anyone with scary-funny stories about a psycho ex-boyfriend. "It has a double meaning, like a lot of our songs do: A friend of ours was going through a little problem with her ex-boyfriend. They'd been together for, like, seven years, and they broke up. She had someone else over, and he kicked the door down, so she had to get a restraining order," Tamblyn explains. "We couldn't believe that these were our two friends and it had come down to this. Simultaneously, I had broken up with this boyfriend, and he had a new girlfriend, and she didn't want him to talk to me." The issues involved may be serious, but the band's take on them is decidedly playful. (Since Tamblyn's ex is Hungarian, so are some of the lyrics. They translate as "No, I don't speak Hungarian.")

It may be risking charges of gender essentialism to say so, but it's hard to imagine three boys with such different styles merging them so well. "I've played with boys, and it's just not as fun," Byrne says. "When you play with boys, they show off a lot." The Kirby Grips, in contrast, are all about collaboration and cooperation. "All our strengths lie in different things. I do most of the songwriting with a guitar, and then I bring it to the band, and Michele has this Phil Spector take on how to produce it," Tamblyn says. Kappel also loves rumba, and she occasionally infuses a bit of a Latin beat into the music.

Though the Kirby Grips say their audiences are split nearly evenly, genderwise, the way they adopt so many varied female archetypes and have so much fun with girl troubles lends them the same kind of knowing feminist appeal as Bust magazine. They're both glamorous' and ultrareal, making them especially

easy for women to relate to.

Bust articulates an effervescent version of feminism that celebrates old-school girlie pleasures like dressing up and diving into florid romance. Its heroines are naughty

pinup girls like Bettie Page and rocker chicks like Kim Gordon, as well as second-wave movement leaders like Gloria Steinem. That's not far off from Tamblyn's philosophy. "My take on feminism has always been that it

has the word 'feminine' in it," she says. "You know, we're women, we're feminine, and being strong and being a feminist doesn't mean staying away from things like love and romance. I mean, I'm pregnant, and

I have a kid, but I'm strong, and I hold my own." 💠

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Master at work

Little Louie Vega discusses pop infiltration, serious B-sides, and why house is the vibe. By Amanda Nowinski

or Bronx-born and -raised Little Louie Vega, house music isn't just a jamming four-on-thefloor rhythm, it's the sum of his life experience. He grew up during the nascency of hip-hop, with Red Alert and Afrika Bambaataa throwing outdoor jams down the block, and as the son of a prominent Latin jazz musician and the younger brother of avid disco-dancing siblings, he consciously pooled together his influences more than a decade ago to produce some of the deepest house records around. With partner Kenny "Dope" Gonzales, Vega operates primarily as Mas-

Vega operates primarily as Masters at Work (M.A.W.), a production team that tweaks pop stars with innovative remixes and creates outstanding original works like 1997's Nuyorican Soul, a full-length album that drew heavily from the artists' Latin jazz roots with guest musicians like the late Tito Puente and George Benson.

Bay Guardian: You used to play S.F. all the time. What happened?

Louie Vega: I'm comin' there now, right? Finally. It's been kind of hard. I've been doing L.A. a lot, and I've wanted to do San Fran a lot, but I guess nobody's called. Maybe people are afraid to call because they think I won't do the gig because it's not enough money, but it's all about the quality of the gig. David Harness throws these great parties in the middle of the week [Tuesdays at Liquid], and for something like that, I would make room.

BG: Are you playing any S.F.

LV: I play a lot of Naked Music and everything on Ubiquity — the Snowboy, all that stuff. C'mon now, I'm big on that. House music happens to be the vibe right now. Everybody was into jungle a few years ago, but it's the soulful house that survives everything. There's the world dance, like Joe Claussell's Latin stuff, or Femi Kuti's more African side. I play all those records; it's just soulful dance music.

BG: What do you think about Ministry of Sound DJ Pete Tong syndicating his BBC radio show on American college stations? Don't we already have enough DJs in the States that could have handled something like that?

LV: He's doing something right. He has the opportunity to do it. He is someone who picks a lot of records and picks a lot of hits. Usually what Pete Tong picks in the U.K. can end up being a huge record; it can be picked up on other pop charts and

end up being top fives. We have to do that here, too. Unfortunately, it took somebody from the other side of the world to come over here and do it. We all got to get together and do something like that — that's the only way we're going to make a change.

BG: It seemed like the Nuyorican Soul album could have made radio play. But it didn't seem to hit the mainstream in America at all.

LV: Yeah, you'd think that an album that's huge like that would sell over 110,000 copies in the United States. Yeah, it's very sad. But at the same

to use those opportunities to get your sound out to people who wouldn't normally listen to it.

BG: You suggest infiltration through pop music?

LV: I think so. If those are the only opportunities you have, you have to do anything to get your sound out there.

BG: But you know how the underground is —

LV: Yes, I do! So that's why you do a B-side. That's what we did. At that time, Frankie Knuckles — you couldn't get more underground than that — but he was playing the Debbie



time, it was all about the marketing, and it was a hard album to market.

I just finished producing Gloria Estefan — I did a cut for her, a new rendition of "Conga," her old song. I went down to Miami and worked with her in the studio. I think that's a great step. I put that dancey club sound into it for them, and it's going to spread with an artist like her.

BG: But couldn't producing pop stars tarnish one's reputation? Did you have that in mind when you produced Debbie Gibson?

LV: I don't think it's bad to work with pop artists. You still have to stay true to your sound, and if you get some of the kids into the sound, even if its only 10, that's good. My advice is

Gibson "One Step Ahead." We put an instrumental on it that worked out, and he played that. Do something for your people on the B-side, for your crowd; introduce your sound to younger people who follow pop. The purists might not play that side, but will [play] the B-side. Remember to take care of your people. *

Little Louie Vega and Erick Morillo perform Fri/26, 10 p.nt.—6 a.m., Space 550, 550 Barneveld, S.F. \$20 in advance, \$25 at the door. For ticket info call (415) 273-5433. Stompy's Jonene spins in the main room; Phunckateck's Sage, Abstract, and juju spin in the back room; N8 Castro and DJ Samo spin upstairs.

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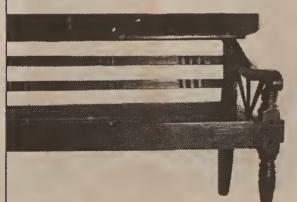
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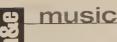


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Talking trash: B.B. and her fellow Loudmouths dedicated the night to songs about rough sex, Roller Derby, binge drinking, hating people, finger tucking, and deciding whether to spit or swallow.



Loudmouths

Covered Wagon Saloon

If all the world's a stage and so on and so forth, the rock trio falls somewhere between the high-wire unicycle act and the silly twit who sticks his mug into the lion's maw. The classic guitar-bassdrum setup is vastly different when the band adds a second guitar, or keyboards, or a name-your-favoritewoodwind-here, because, well, the trio has fewer structures to work with. While we are firm believers that less is more, the problem is that there's no safety net to catch a trio when things go wrong, no one to rush in and fill the unintentional void.

And so it was with great post-holiday glee that we ferried our way to the Covered Wagon Saloon and the one-two rabbit punch of scene vets the Loudmouths and the Jack Saints. The crowd was in full lethargy mode, the room's

energy having been sucked dry and belched out onto Folsom Street by the opening band. While the vital signs for a promising night were still there (stale and too warm inside: Stinky's Peepshow offering the fine Honey Bee and her killer Ds in the back room for a buck; relatively cold PBR), but only a serious reclamation project could pull this one out of the shitter.

With that in mind, and wasting little time, the Loudmouths set up, plugged in, harangued the crowd, and busted straight into a hissy fit called "Saki." Within two minutes a revitalized crowd began filling up the area in front of the stage; the night seemed a whole lot rosier.

Bassist B.B. Loudmouth, resplendent in motorcycle boots, extra short skirt, and a couple sleeves of tats, made sure to drop a few more jokes before the band was off and running again, jamming another hunk of primitive punk through the grater. Guitarist-vocalist Dulce Loudmouth

(who also happens to be a mildmannered Bay Guardian sales schlepp by day) sprayed the room with a throaty growl, fractured minimalist rhythm, and short, jagged solos that weren't around long enough to make an artistic statement. "Aim for the Head" got a group howl from the kids. "Feelin' Alright" answered the question of what the Runaways would've sounded like if they'd been a hardcore band (assuming you ask questions like that). By the time they delivered "No

somebody had re-

membered to turn the potlight on the band. The boys liked the Loudmouths' noise fine, but it was the gals in the room who really seemed caught up in the moment. And the moment went pretty much like this: heckle the crowd, launch another rocket or two, towel off, heckle the crowd, and do it all over again. Like the Wilson sisters with cheap dye jobs and a serious hair across their ass, the night was all tight, muscular, compact 2/4 bashing and wailing dedicated to rough sex, Roller Derby, binge drinking, hating people, finger fucking, and deciding whether to spit or swallow. B.B. dropped the low end in a bucket and the f-word every chance she got, and even though you were in love, you couldn't take her home to meet Mom for fear of what she'd do to Dad's liquor cabinet. The band crashed the Customs' "Long Gone" on "Come and Go," ground along on the metal stripper theme "Pay the Price," and did a gruesome cover of the Action Swingers' "Big Mouth." Forty-five minutes and 16 songs later, the night was officially saved. We could stand firm in our belief in the power trio.

God bless the three-piece. God save us from the Loudmouths. (John O'Neill)

Red Planet

Revolution 33 (Gearhead)

From the bowels of Gearhead magazine's record label comes Red Planet's latest 11-song pop gem. The moptopped San Francisco quartet, pictured in the liner notes shrink-wrapped together in plastic and clutching Budweisers, pour English pop sugar into American hot-rod gas tanks. The opening track, "You Can't See Me," brings on the Moog, echoing the same tight, hardcore bubblegum of latter-day boy-rockers like Redd Kross, Walt Mink, and Eugenius. "Satellite" starts out with a Runaways-ish arena-rock riff, then segues into a supercatchy Supergrass-y chorus (*Why did I come here / Why did I stop here / Why do I stay here"). "Starforce" 's chunky, bottom-heavy corduroy axes and spot-on three-part harmonies soar into the stratosphere when the band breaks out the cherry-on-top flange. The band as a whole constructs songs so simple they would be simplistic if not for good instrumentation, big-industry production, and great vocal hooks. Revolution 33 stakes Red Planet's tlag in superior Bay Area-rock soil. That's one foot planted firmly in the garage, the other in the arena. (Summer Burkes)

Deejay Zeph and Imperial

Break Builders Vol. 1 (self-released)

Given the success of the live Future Primitive Soundsession recordings and the much coveted (and heavily bootlegged) Brainfreeze collaboration between DJ Shadow and Cut Chemist, one has to wonder why there haven't been more selt-released CDs pairing DJs from the Bay Area's deep pool of talent on multiple turntables. On this exhaustive compendium of breaks from funk, soul, jazz, and rock records (all original pressings, as proudly noted on the insert), Deejay Zeph and Imperial eschew the chaotic scratching frenzy of the Shiggar Fraggar series for a more subtle seamless-mix aesthetic. The CD's two 30-minuteplus tracks (one recorded live to DAT) meander through a cornucopia of musical snippets of varying obscurity. A tew breaks could be recognized by any classic rock fan. However, a majority of the disc is tilled with well-mixed snatches of heavily sampled gems that helped make hip-hop's golden era, along with funky artifacts mined from the dusty corners of these two beat archaeologists' voluminous crates. Zeph and Imperial have put together a deftly executed four-turntable trip through their collective vinyl wealth, creating an entertaining and eminently danceable history lesson of thick grooves. (Dave Pehling)

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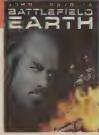
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Pop sensation

t all started around Halloween last year. No, back up. It really began at the MTV Video Music Awards. Before that I was just your average snotnosed indie rock fan. I hadn't wanted my MTV in years. I despised Hanson. I hated Rolling Stone for its half-naked cover girls and irrelevant coverage. I'd never bothered to learn the difference between Britney and Christina, between the Backstreet Boys and 'N Sync, the band where my story really begins. I wish I could go back

I could blame the couch, the TV, the takeout Chinese food on the table, but the truth is. Hike to watch. Eves narrowed, arms crossed, I slump my way through all the award ceremonies, spitting sarcastically at the bad jokes, the actors stumbling directionless through their lines, the see-through getups. The musical acts always suck, but hey, I always figured, it gives me a glimpse of what the magazine racks have been hyping for months.

I'm too old for 'N Sync, too old to print frantic messages on poster board and scream in concert stadiums. How did I end up the proud owner of their video Live at Madison Square Garden? I'm too old for Justin Timberlake. Not to mention the god-awful turtlenecks and the gold cross hanging coyly on his chest. How did I end up perusing Teen People for his image?

I watched them stroll across the VMA stage in their natty white suits, crooning goopily, and I pitied all the little poster-board girls in the house, in houses across the land. But then the monitors came down, five of them, hanging at head level from the sky. The cruisewear came off to reveal a darker, more plastic side of 'N Sync. They slipped behind their screens. Outsize images of their heads flickered on and off the screens as they sang "Bye Bye Bye," their bodies moving below in, well, sync. They sidestepped their interfaces, segueing into "It's Gonna Be «Me." Dancing girls overran the stage. I didn't notice that my mouth was hanging open until the commercial break. Did you see it? Come over and watch it sometime. I have it on tape

I really lost my head. I should have changed the channel, and I shouldn't have called my housemate into the room, and I shouldn't have watched the next 25 times the awards ceremony played (like the moon walk, for a while you just turned on your TV and it was there). But it happened so fast.

"It's kind of ... cool," I said, expecting to be clubbed to death and eaten by the pack. Instead my housemate gasped and got comfortable on the couch. A month later we were suiting up in the living room, drawing on our eyeliner sideburns and soul patches, trying to figure out how to dance in unison, annoying the dog and the

neighbors as we practiced our moves.

Halloween night, wandering the Mission, stopping on street corners to do our dance routine, we heard rumors of a boy-band fan, some mad young thing with a placard and a scream. A friend took a look at us in our baggy pants and headsets and said we were "just this side of irony." To be honest, I don't think we made it that far. I wanted more routines, more fans, more drag. At the end of the night I sadly shed my Justinwear.

Weeks passed. A month passed. Like a fever, the fascination passed. At a Christmas party my housemate's sister got a Britney doll. I sat on the couch and drank too much whiskey, quizzing the boys on whether they really thought Britney was "hot." When someone linked her name with Justin's, I didn't even have to leave the room.

Still, I live with the memory of my susceptibility, the moment in which I succumbed to the pop sensation. It was a slipup, like having been a cheerleader for a semester in high school, or puking five times outside the Kennel Club the first time I experienced the San Francisco nightlife. I got over the scalding shame and moved on, eventually. The last time I saw Justin, he was shedding fake tears in some video, wearing one of those turtlenecks I once loved to despise. And to my great relief, like Morales in A Chorus Line, I felt nothing. *





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got it

by jeff chang

Memories can't wait

n Martin Luther King Jr. Day l stirred a pot of stew in the kitchen, Lourdes prepared rice, and Jonathan, his back to me, assembled a city in Lego miniature. We were listening to the Art Ensemble of Chicago's Les Stauces A Sophie, the soundtrack to a movie never shown. The turntable played "Proverbes (i)" and then "Theme Amour Universal."

We had watched a documentary of King thundering against the Vietnam War. Jonathan sat agape, transfixed by King's cadence, the moral music of his voice. Then the boy suddenly ran to the television and turned it off. "I don't want to see it anymore," he declared. "I don't want to see him die."

I was shaking my head at this recollection, listening to Lester Bowie, Joseph Jarman, Roscoe Mitchell, and Fontella Bass playing these minimalist dirges recorded in the summer of 1970 in France — laments to lost American innocence. I turned to see Jonathan slumped, head drooping toward his lap, a yellow brick piece limp in his right hand. Minutes before, he had been swaying to "Theme de Yoyo." Now as I walked around him to peer at his downcast face, he looked ready to cry.

I crouched and thought of what to say. "Is the music making you sad?"

He nodded. "What does it make you think of?" I asked.

He thought a moment. "It makes me think of the story I heard. About the president," he said haltingly. "He had blood. The president had blood."

I had no idea where he had heard this story. Even this early, there are memories of moments never lived, of unfathomable sadness. "It makes you think of the story of President Kennedy?" I asked.

He nodded. Then he went to the turntable. "I want to turn it off."

In days, Nigeria's Human Rights Violations Investigation Commission will turn its attention to the actions of the president, Olusegun Obasanjo, who convened the panel. Fela Anikulapo-Kuti's family wants the former military general to account before the nation for his role in the 1977 raid on Fela's Kalakuta Republic. The famously vicious attack crippled Fela's musical and political ambitions and left the compound burned to the ground. Soldiers seized the property, mercilessly raped many of Fela's wives, and threw his mother out of the window. She later died of her injuries. Beko, Fela's brother, and Femi, his son, are asking for more than \$2 million in damages. But perhaps more importantly, they want to tie the loose ends of history, to satiate memories that

It's a strange time for Ernest Ranglin to be releasing an Afrobeat-colored jazz album called Modern Answers to Old Problems (Telarc). On the record, the 68-year-old Jamaican-born Ranglin, the founding father of ska guitar, leads Africa 70 bandleader and drummer Tony Allen, Brit new lion Courtney Pine, Brazilian-tinged crew Da Lata's Chris Franck, and a tight crew of Nigerian Londoners.

The problems spoken of in the album title, of course, are entirely musical. Rock critics feasted on Fela's flamboyance, but jazz snobs often accused Fela of being a lightweight. (Lester Bowie was not one of them, proudly bringing his trumpet to the republic months before Obasanjo's attack to play on "No-Agreement.") On Modern Answers, Ranglin redeems Fela's vision by bridging high concept and low-end theory.

You could say it only takes 90 seconds to solve this problem. "Outernational Incident" opens with Allen, the other primal force on this brilliant album, laying out one of his distinctive break beats. Into Allen's vast space, Ranglin drops dissonant chords, organist Joe Bashorun leaves traces of glowing notes, and producer Trevor Wyatt dubs the project into orbit.

When I put this CD on, Jonathan didn't want to turn it off. He wanted to dance. Somehow, I'm sure Lester Bowie, Fela, and Martin are dancing with him. 🌣

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Jesper Dahlbäck

The Stockholm Mix Sessions (Turbo)

In 2000 it seemed that every dance music DJ or producer I interviewed made pleas for one thing: kill genres. And you could hear the effects all around: junglists like Photek were making house, hip-hoppers like Zion I were adding drum 'n' bass, rave veterans like Lexi Love were brewing something in between, and old-school house producers like Larry Heard were saying they'd already made something like 2 step back in the day. Aside from being an obvious marketing tool, it's tough to say that the notion of the isolated "genre" still holds much creative weight.

Which is why I'm hesitant to lay another genre title — tech house — on this 1999 mixed compilation from Sweden's Jesper Dahlbäck. Sure, the tracks play with elements of house and techno, often meeting just in the middle, but the DJ's goal here seems to be to (a) disregard the purists by laying house and techno side by side, (b) confuse you if you're seeking to pin down his style, and (c) evoke the feeling one gets far past the bedtime hour on a dark, musty dance floor. Dahlbäck, a peer of other Swedish techno producers like Cari Lekebusch and Adam

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(Sundazed)

Beyer, throws in whatever sculpts the mood of the journey: dulcet-voiced house divas, harder techno beats and spare tones, smooth, ethereal house keyboards, and that grounding, driving four-on-the-floor beat.

Dahlbäck kicks it off with the dooshdoosh-doosh dance floor basics: a pared-down techno beat from Nordelius and Ressle's "With Us All Around," which eventually builds into zigzagging keyboards and squeaky alien funk bleeps. He slows it down on Blue 6's "Sweeter Love," a gorgeous vocal track with Naked Music's Jay Dene's trademark vocoder effects and aesthetic of melodic restraint, evidently inspired by Frankie Knuckles or Larry Heard. Isolée's "Beau mot plage, which rightfully made its way onto numerous mix CDs last year, is a stunningly odd non-dancey work of art that sounds as if it's been submerged in aquatic keyboards and wafting, angelic beats. Don't mind the style here - just focus on the ride. (Amanda Nowinski)

Jaffa

Elevator (Nude)

It's difficult to tell whether Canadian multi-instrumentalist David Kakon, who also calls himself Jaffa, is a slickly talented musician or an able mimic. Parts of his debut, Elevator, are straight outta '70s fusion, when artists like Ramsey Lewis, Roy Ayers, and Herbie Hancock sought to build a bridge of sorts between cool jazz and soul and rock. Elevator unashamedly harks back to that now distant time, confident in the knowledge that an entire genre alternately referred to as downtempo or loungecore (depending on your temperament) and crafted by the likes of Jazzanova and Thievery Corporation welcomes it with open arms. There's the slinky, irresistible "Be Nude, Baby," accompanied by exhortations from

kling of the ivories, the result of several years of classical training. Perhaps it is his studies that have led to such a meticulously rendered record, which proves to be his undoing during a ponderous reinterpretation of Billie Holiday's "God Bless the Child" with Miss B. on "Sneakin'." Much of Elevator's appeal lies in its tasteful yet wide-

Lamine Dabate so breathy they seem to

conjure a silk sheet-clad water bed out of sound. Other tracks, notably "Eleva-

tor" and "Bklyn Bobbi," are veritable

lounge chairs from which to sit and pontificate on God knows what.

There are moments of mirth, espe-

cially in "Star 67"'s humorous if sinister

exchange instigated by a prank caller

victim's wife. Elevator has an organic quality, too, thanks to Jaffa's savvy tin-

(Gabriel Kakon) asking to speak to his

eyed charm and playful lasciviousness, qualities that negate Jaffa's heroic mastery of everything from drum machines and guitars to an assortment of keyboards and synthesizers. His detailed songwriting on the mostly instrumental Elevator is dwarfed by his tendency to equate melody and quality with softcore electronics. (Mosi Reeves)

Bill Frisell

Blues Dream (Nonesuch)

Bill Frisell's combination of an extremely personal instrumental sound - full of uniquely weepy timbres, dizzy sustains, and jagged moans and a deceptively facile technique has elevated him to icon status in the cultish realm of jazz-rock guitarists. The shy, soft-spoken, and self-effacing Frisell has given his fans plenty of reasons to believe, including last year's solo guitar recording, Ghost Town.

Frisell's subtle guitar wizardry, however, tends to deflect attention from his singular style as a composer and arranger; Blues Dream, his 14th Nonesuch recording in the past dozen years, corrects that. The 18-track CD features enough surprising string bending to satiate the guitar freaks, especially when Frisell and steel guitar ace Greg Leisz. stay to the fore in a basic quartet with bassist David Piltch and drummer Kenny Wollesen. But where in the past Frisell has largely relied on his facility with pedals, feedback, and effects to texturize and color his compositions, here he employs a horn section of longtime collaborators: trumpeter Ron-Miles, alto saxophonist Billy Drewes,

and trombonist Curtis Fowlkes. The result is one of his most richly hued and emotionally complex recordings since 1993's Have a Little Faith, which featured cover versions of songs by Bob Dylan, John Hiatt, Charles Ives, Madonna, John Phillip Sousa, and others. Like that ambitious project, Blues Dream takes the notion of Americana to a new level, as Frisell references country, blues, and psychedelic rock through his own wistful writing, fleshes it out with the horns on the septet tracks, and - as Miles Davis often did in his small-group recordings and in Gil Evans orchestral arrangements makes the music hover in a moody and spacious atmosphere of his own creation. (Derk Richardson)

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SISTER 7 HEATHER COMBS THE MIKE METZ BAND 1/25 Botom of the Hill

JAY FARRAR ANDERS PARKER

MERMEN VINCE CONVERSE 1/27 Slim's

BLACK HEART PROCESSION LOVE AS LAUGHTER SOUL JUNK 1/27 Great American Music Hall

BEAU SOLEIL AVEC 2/12 The Fillmore MICHAEL DOUCET 2/1 Great American Music Hall JULIA FORDHAM

FLYBANGER NOTHINGFACE SYSTEMATIC

UNWOUND

Bottom of the Hill 2/5 Great American Music Hall TONY FURTADO BAND NOE VENABLE TRIO 2/2 Broadway Studios

EARL WHITE'S DANCE BAND STAIRWELL SISTERS STRINGBEAN 2/4 Makeaul Room

RICHARD ASHCROFT

DEATH CAB FOR CUTIE

IEALOUS SOUND THE AND/ORS 2/6 Great American Music Hall

CHRIS WHITLEY Bottom of the Hill

MARK GROWDEN'S ELECTRIC PINATA

THE ANDY PETERS SHOW HUMAN LIFE INDEX 2/9 The Tempest

MOE. 2/10 The Warfield

THE PROMISE RING 2/11 Great American Music Hall

MERL SAUNDERS icon Music Hall

BEBEL GILBERTO

OEEP BANANA BLACKOUT THE MOTET

RECKLESS KELLY

34 SATELLITE

2/20 Bottom ol the Hill *WILLIE NELSON

LUNA 2/24 The Fillmore

DEE DEE RAMONE THE GROOVIE GHOULIES
2/25 Covered Wagon

GIRLS AGAINST BOYS

THE WHITE STRIPES HOLLY GOLIGHTLY

THE SAMPLES

3/3 Great American Music Hal

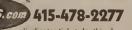
MERLE HAGGARO 3/13 Person Theatre, Santa Rosa

FUNKY METERS

"YAHOOI OUTLOUD" WEEZER
3/17 Bill Graham Civic Auditorius

WILLY PORTER

MOIAVE 3 3/3-4 Slim's



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and His Buckeroos

Buckeroos, oop music reflected the tastes of a nation bitterly divided by civil rights battles and the Vietnam War. Folk fueled protest marches; rock channeled the frustration and confusion of a generation; soul, while not explicitly political, ached from wounds inflicted over

centuries. Country, meanwhile, held the red-white-and-blue line. Several decades from its blue-collar, rural roots, country had become melodramatic and often silly, although its past gave depth to the music that was only sometimes evident on the surface.

Owens's concert doesn't do much to

rewrite that script. It showcases a band riding a long string of hits and a songwriter-bandleader who could veer from neatly crafted weepers like "Together Again" and "Cryin' Time" to inane songs like "Waitin' in Your Welfare Line," while filling up between-song space (and sometimes the songs

themselves) with comball jokes (remember the television series Hee Haw, which Owens hosted?). If the rock music of the day was unfortunately permitting musicians to indulge in 20-minute explorations of nothing in particular, country was stuck to the opposite pole of the same stupidity. Responding to audience expectations to "play the hits," Owens jams 13 songs into three medleys lasting a total of 10 minutes and 27 seconds. Add to that 8 minutes of imitations of Tex Ritter, Ernest Tubbs, and Johnny Cash and three and a half minutes of mimicking the Beatles (complete with Beatle wigs, according to the liner notes) doing "Twist and Shout," and you've got country music circa 1966.

Did I mention that the band is incredible - Tom Brumleys's pedal steel playing is as tasteful and evocative as could be --- and that when Owens leaves the joking aside and plays, the music is superb? Nineteen sixty-six was an era I wouldn't want to return to, but Carnegie Hall Concert is a night I was glad to visit. (J.H. Tompkins)

Sweet dreams

've been dreaming of records lately — but not H.R. Giger–inspired nightmares of black vinyl reaching out to swallow me, nor fantasies about a magical record store stocked to the rafters with every record I've ever wanted. I've been dreaming about real records: 45s and LPs that I've come across are returning to me at night.

The most vivid dream was, appropriately, about one of the best pieces of music I've listened to lately: Stones Throw Records' 7-inch reissue of the Highlighters' "Poppin' Popcorn" and "The Funky 16 Corners." The music by this Indianapolis group is stellar: two lost funk classics with breakbeats that jangle like a stampede of spurs and horns hot enough to melt the JBs' brass section. It's easy to see why their two 45s have become collectibles commanding upward of \$1,000.

Songs like these have powered the funk reissue and compilation market, but while there's a lot of great material available, music and musicians often take a

backseat to the egos of the compilers. Infamous British collector Keb Darge, who's put together several excellent packages, including the Legendary Deep Funk series and the newer Finik Spectrum series, is the most notorious. In his extensive liner notes, Darge is given to devoting more time bragging about how he scored the only copy of a particular 45 than he is to shedding light on who recorded it, when, and why. In the process, excellent, obscure music is reduced to little more than material to boast about.



Not so on the Highlighters reissue. The packaging on the 7-inch includes a picture of the original group members (complete with name legend on the back), a map of Indianapolis, marking the studio where they recorded their work, and liner notes by legendary broadcaster Spyder Harrison of Indiana radio station WLAC. Credit belongs to Stones Throw's newest hire, 22year-old funk wunderkind Eothen "Egon" Alapatt, who helped retrieve the songs' masters from the surviving group members by traveling to Indianapolis during a cross-country funk-'n'-bowl-a-thon (visit www.stonesthrow.com for the hilarious daily diary). Perhaps it's his youth — he's still unspoiled — but whatever the reason, Alapatt might just be one of the few funk fiends who gets it: comps and reissues shouldn't be just about bragging rights. They're important because they bring outstanding music

On that note, another record that's been drifting in and out of my subconscious is Piero Umiliani's Ode to Duke Ellington on Italy's Right Tempo reissue imprint. Umiliani was one of the most prolific soundtrack composers of the 1970s, a funkier version of his compatriot Ennio Morricone, whose early jazz influence came from El Duke himself. On Ode, Umiliani replaces Ellington's favored Steinway Grand with the electronic Moog and ARP synthesizers, resulting in a wondrously quirky sound that runs Ellington's classics head-on into the retro-space-age sonics of 1950s pulp sci-fi flicks.

He plays Duke's standards both straight and warped. Umiliani's "Prelude to a Kiss" is absolutely faithful to the original, with a sonorous guitar playing against the sweeping strings. But on his version of "Solitude," as he floats the first, familiar notes off the ARP, its tinny, whiny sound shimmers like a dub plate over the submerged bass line. Likewise, on "Caravan," his various bleeps sound like an early Nintendo game until the exotic strains of the melody slide in. Umiliani composed most of Ode after Duke's death in 1974, but it's easy to imagine that Ellington, who embraced musical diversity, would have appreciated Umiliani's tribute to his work, especially the title track, which seems obviously inspired by the full, flush swells of Ellington's

Ode to Duke Ellington and the Highlighters' "Poppin' Popcorn" are powerful reminders of why some musical artifacts deserve — and need — kind and generous hands to return them to circulation. Perhaps this is why they haunt me in my sleep. Fortunately, labels like Stones Throw and Right Tempo continue to make music's past present again, proving that music need not be lost to the dust(y record) bin of history. ❖



Jan. 24 Wednesday

Cool to be kind Once pigeonholed as a contemporary jazz (read; fusion) musician - a tag reinforced by her associations with fellow guitarists Bill Frisell, Wayne Krantz, and Mike Stern -German-born Leni Stern has put herself beyond the scope of easy categories by venturing into singing, songwriting, and orchestration. Last year she combined those elements to beautiful effect on Kindness of Strangers, released on her own self-titled label. Unlike other pop singer-songwriters who attempt to spice up their arrangements, the Berklee College of Music graduate has adapted her classical, jazz, and film score training to fit the probing sentiments of love songs and epic pieces such as "I See Your Face," dedicated to the victims (mostly children) of a neofascist terrorist attack in Bologna, Italy. Nonetheless, expect plenty of wizardry from this multiple winner of Gibson's Best Female Jazz Guitarist award. 9 and 11 p.m., Bruno's, 2389 Mission, S.F. \$5. (415) 648-7701. (Also Sun/28 with Jane Brody, Natasha Miller, and Shelley Doty Xtet, 8:30 p.m., Hotel Utah, 500 Fourth St., S.F. \$5. 415-546-6300.) (Derk Richardson)

days

Jan. 24-31, 2001



Slammin': WritersCorps unleashes its fierce young performance poets for the third vear in a row. See Sat/27.

Jan. 25 **Thursday**

(I)PO'd Perhaps you've heard about this little thing called gentrification that's going on in the Mission. If not, welcome back to Earth: the rent on that windowless one-bedroom you used to occupy is currently \$2,500, and the dive on the corner now serves up sake margaritas. Young folks ages 12 to 21 - most of whom called the Mission District home long before "yahoo" was more than a synonym for "yee-haw" — bite back with Burn American Dreams, a stage piece with music, dance, and drums produced by the Loco Bloco Drum and Dance Ensemble. In this alltoo-authentic tale, the actors explore the lives of a Latino-African American family facing domestic and economic strife in the new dotconomy. Expect to witness real feelings of anger translated into theatrical expression. Through Sat/27. 8 p.m., Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission, S.F. \$5-\$10. (415) 626-5222, ext. 30. (Cheryl Eddy)

Bluegrass attack Seemingly determined to bring bluegrassbased dance music to the masses, fiddler Darol Anger (David Grisman Quintet, Turtle Island String Quartet, Montreux, Psychograss, and the Anger-Marshall Band) and guitarist

critics' choices, listings, and more

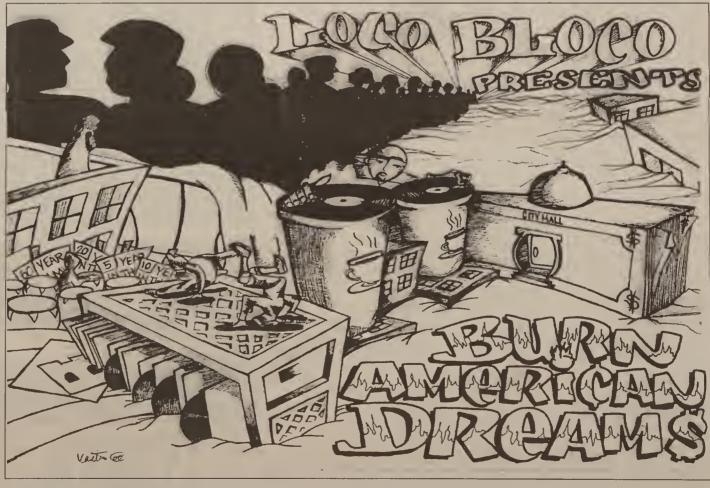
63 Music

79 **Events**

> 81 Art

84 Stage

> 86 Film



To the Mission born: A fresh wave of artist-activists takes the stage in Loco Bloco's youth-produced Burn American Dreams. See Thurs/25.

Scott Nygaard (Tim O'Brien and the O'Boys, Laurie Lewis and Grant Street) have formed the **Improbables**. Given the diversity of their backgrounds, you probably won't have to be perfectly skilled with your precision folk dance steps, just willing to plug into the grooves laid down by bassist Todd Sickafoose (Noe Venable Trio) and let your head spin to the dazzling, borderline psychedelic violin and guitar solos. 9 p.m., Last Day Saloon, 406 Clement, S.F. \$12. (415) 387-6343. (Also Sat/27, 9:30 p.m., 19 Broadway, Fairfax. \$12. 415-459-1091.) (Richardson)

Jan. 26 Friday

Defying gravity You have to hand it to Yannis Adoniou and Tomi Paasonen, codirectors of the multimedia dance phenomenon Kunst-Stoff: they never fail to bring outer space to the inner spaces of San Francisco's performance scene. Both former ballet

shakin', ass-wigglin', funk-fueled fantasies than we'll ever know. The night has also served as a launching ground for such local groove institutions as Ubiquity, Fog City Records, and Groove Merchant. Tonight the downbeat drops in the Justice League's more spacious environs, with DJs Cool Chris (Groove Merchant), Dan Prothero (Fog City), Motion Potion (What Da Funk), and Romanowski (Future Primitive) --without a doubt, four of the finest, most qualified funkateers around — behind the decks. 9 p.m., Justice League, 628 Divisadero, S.F. \$10. (415) 362-3557. (Sylvia W. Chan)

Jan. 27 Saturday

Learning to fly Tumbling into Berkeley tonight are the Peking Acrobats, who defy the laws of physics by and with -- leaps and bounds. The ensemble of nearly 30 elite gymnasts, jugglers, and cyclists combines athletic prowess with artistic mastery to trans-



dancers, Adoniou and Paasonen challenge, employ, corrupt, and honor the dance tradition from whence they emerged by ensconcing its physical habits in the ever baffling atmosphere of contemporary technological society. For their run at Jon Sims, Adoniou directs Everything Is under Control, which is likely to exhibit chaos en pointe. For all its Euro obtuseness, Kunst-Stoff feels fresh and fun, and the choreographers appear deeply committed to their art without taking it too seriously. 8 p.m. (additional shows Feb. 23 and March 23, 8 p.m.), Jon Sims Center for the Performing Arts, 1519 Mission, S.F. \$5-\$10 (no one turned away for lack of funds). (415) 554-0402. (Sima Belmar)

Shake 'n' bake Wanna get funked up? Come celebrate 13 years of sweet salvation with the crew behind the longest-running rare funk and groove night on the West Coast at

Rarefunk 13, presented, of course, by none other than the fine folks responsible for Nickie's BBQ's "What Da Funk" showcase. Some of the stankiest sounds the Bay Area's ever heard have thumped through Nickie's dank walls on Thursday nights, inspiring more booty-

form a 2,000-year-old Chinese folk art into a contemporary circus spectacular. Led by director Hai Ken Tsai and accompanied by the traditional Hong Kong Chinese Orchestra, the acrobats continue to dazzle international audiences with their seemingly impossible contortions, amazing wire walking feats, and daredevil halancing acts. Tonight, 8 p.m.; Sun., 3 p.m. (special School Time performances for students grades 2-12 Mon., 10:30 a.m. and 1 p.m.), Zellerbach Hall, UC Berkeley, Bancroft at Telegraph, Berk. \$18-\$30 (Sun., tickets half-price for children 16 and under; SchoolTime performances, \$3). (510) 642-9988. (Sabrina

Polka punch Last year at the Mexican Museum's 30th-anniversary gala, Miguel Govea and his band Los Compas jammed through an excellent blend of Afro-Mex salsa and cumbias, but the stone cold conjunto norteño featuring his daughter Rene Peña on accordion and his wife, Susan Peña, on the bajo sexteto double-stringed guitar was the icing on the cake. With its fiery polkas, the Govea Peña Trio performs a traditionally soulful sound rooted in the earthy essence of this border music.

Miguel is a seasoned musician who, with Los Compas, has played throughout San Francisco and probably holds the record for the longest-running weekly gig at Pier 23, where the group first established itself. But the family that plays together stays together, and Rene is demonstrating some serious talent on the squeezebox. If corridos and dusty border classics are your thing, don't miss this one! 8 p.m., Peña del Sur, 2870 22nd St., S.F. \$6. (415) 550-1101. (Chuy Varela)

Spread the word All over the city, young writers are working out their stanzas and bulking up their rhymes: it's spring training for the WritersCorps Youth Poetry Slam League. Starting today, Borders Books and Music hosts the first in a series of poetry slams for young people ages 12 to 19 who write and perform their own works. San Francisco finals will be held in April; winners will go to Washington, D.C., in May to compete in the national slam finals. The WritersCorps slam program, which is administered locally by the San Francisco Art Commission, began in 1995 in Washington to encourage urban kids to express themselves through writing and performance. 7 p.m., Borders Books and Music, 400 Post, S.F. Free. (415) 252-4655. (Debbie

Jan. 28 Sunday

Goooooal! Punk is more than just music; it's a way of life. And you can't survive on three-chord assaults to the ears alone --- you need a more wellrounded existence, one that includes a little exercise while building your teamplaying skills. So whether punk is in your heart or tattooed on your knuckles, come to Golden Gate Park to play punk soccer. The last-Sunday-of-everymonth event is an informal gathering of kids young and old who believe in organizing cool, fun stuff to do outside of the club scene, Rather than just nod in passing every time you brush shoulders with your hardcore kin at the Covered Wagon, put on some cleats and get your punk ass on the field. 2 p.m., Golden Gate Park (field between Seventh and Ninth Aves. off Lincoln), S.F. Free. (415)

566-0696, christupher@hotmail.com. (Deborah Giattina)

Ink slingin' Tattoo artists may spend the day applying dolphins, tribal designs, and butterflies to the skin of eager customers, but when they've got some time alone, many turn to nonflesh canvasses for artistic expression. Witness 'Muse: The Art of Women Tattooists,' a new exhibition of two- and threedimensional works that add another meaning to the "artist" part of the job title. Acrylic, watercolor, and oil paintings make up the bulk of the show, but other pieces include photographs and beaded lamps. Tonight's opening reception also features live music. Reception 7-10 p.m. (gallery hours Feb. 4 and 11, noon-4 p.m. and by appointment), 848 Community Space, 828 Divisadero, S.F. Free. (415) 820-3991. (Eddy)

Jan. 29 **Monday**

Fresh picked Ever wondered how theater companies pick the plays they perform? Eavesdrop on the selection process at a staged reading of Richard Kalinowski's Beast on the Moon. Eureka Theatre artistic director Andrea Gordon oversees this script-inhand production; after the show a critique session helps the company determine whether it plans to add the work to its upcoming roster. At stake is Kalinowski's comedy-drama about an Armenian mail-order bride and political refugee who is faced with enormous cultural obstacles when she arrives in the United States. 7:30 p.m., Eureka Theatre, 215 Jackson, S.F. Donations accepted. (415) 788-7469. (Eddy)

Jan. 30 Tuesday

Burnin' for you "On Tour Forever" still holds true for Blue Öyster Cult, as they've consistently played more than 100 dates a year for the past 10 years, often without label support. But that's scheduled to change this spring when some fresh Cult cuts are scheduled to drop via a new album tentatively titled Manic Aggressive. Undoubtedly the band will stay true to its patent

heavy metal sound, which merges San Francisco psychedelia, sci-fi lyrics, and hammering Sabbath-like intensity. With original lead vocalist Eric Bloom and lead guitarist Buck Dharma (the man behind "Don't Fear the Reaper" and the umlaut) ready to rock the hesher in you tonight's show should provide an opportunity to hear new material, throw horns like a maniac, and break out the six-foot bong. 8 p.nr., Slim's, 333 11th St., S.F. \$18. (415) 522-0333. (Giattina)

Jan. 31 Wednesday

Back to school Film buffs who'd like to apply a more academic perspective to the big screen should consider attending the open-to-thepublic-as-space-permits Film 50: History of Cinema, an ongoing (Wednesdays through May 2) copresentation by the Pacific Film Archive and the UC Berkeley film studies program. For the price of PFA admission (advance tickets are recommended for nonstudents), cinephiles can supplement their viewing of a classic film (The Man with a Movie Camera and The Blue Angel are upcoming selections) with a lecture by Prof. Russell Merritt. Today, learn about German expressionism, painted-on shadows, and last-minute framing devices at the screening of Robert Wiene's 1919 tale of a sleepwalking killer, The Cabinet of Dr. Caligari. Randy Craig provides live piano accompaniment. 3 p.m., New PFA Theater, 2725 Bancroft, Berk. \$4.50-\$7. (510) 642-5249 (to charge by phone) or (510) 642-1412 (info). (Eddy)

The Bay Guardian listings deadline is two weeks prior to our Wednesday publication date. To submit an item for consideration please include the title of the event; date and time; venue name; street address (listing cross streets only is not sufficient); city; telephone number readers can call for more information; telephone number for media; admission costs; and a brief description of the event. Send information to Listings, 520 Hampshire, S.F. 94110; fax to (415) 487-2506 or e-mail to listings@sfbg.com. We cannot guarantee the return of photos, but enclosing an SASE helps. We regret we cannot accept listings over the phone.

Hot spot

Those glitter-covered, neo-burlesque foxes known as the Devil-Ettes have been kicking ass and air alike for two years now; imagine the hard-earned flexibility of their thighs and the fierceness



of their struts. Their shows always promise old-style fun with a weird futuristic twist, so come on down and help celebrate their second anniversary with the music of Virginia Dare, karaoke ridiculousness with the Amazing Embarrassonics, and, of course, extra-special dances performed by the ladies in red themselves. Formal, festive, or devilish wear encouraged. Sat/27, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa, S.F. \$10. (415) 861-9199, www.babydoe.com. (Amanda Nowinski)

ABSOLUTE MUSIC PRECENTS...

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Sat 1/27 Kung Fu USA 9pm New Rochelles 78 RPM's Stress Family Robinson **Coming Soon:**

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Thursday 1/25

DJ SoMuchSoul 6-9:30 San Francisco Symphony Jazzer 10pm

Friday 1/26

DJ Tari 6-10:30pm Los Gatos 11pm

Saturday 1/27 DJ Label 6-10pm Marcus Shelby Jazz Orchestra 11pm

Tuesday 1/30 DJ Centipede 6-9:30pm Boca Do Rio 10pm

Wednesday 1/31 DJ TBD 6-9:30pm Marcus Shelby Trio 10pm

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Rock/blues/hip-hop

Blue Reptiles Blue Lamp. 9:30pm. Kofy Brown Mecca, 2029 Market; 621-7000. 8

R.L. Burnside, Robert Belfour Great American Music Hall. 9pm, \$15. See Critic's Choice. Call and Response, Bart Davenport and the Moore Brothers, Beam, DJ Noël Bottom of the

Tommy Castro Band Biscuits and Blues.

Damsels, Western, Smart Set Cafe du Nord.

John Davis Cosmopolitan Cafe, 121 Spear;

Funkanauts, Cat Band Last Day Saloon. 9pm,

Huns Covered Wagon Saloon. 9pm. Local Drinkers Hotel Utah. 8:30pm Netwerk: Electric Boom Boom Room.

Pure Ecstasy Top of the Mark. 8:30pm, \$8. Jonathan Richman Make-Out Room. 9pm, \$8. Through Thurs/25

Songo, Jane Selkye Paradise Lounge.

Darrin Stout and the Starlighters, Nu-Niles

Toids Full Throttle Drchestra, Bitches Brew

Bay Area

Shelley Doty X-Tet Fourth Street Tavern.

Martin Franco Blake's, 9:30pm, \$3. Michael LaMacchia Sweetwater. 9pm.

Jazz/new music

Don Asher and Eddie Duran Moose's. Spm. Ned Boynton Combo Enrico's. 7pm. Kevin Gibbs One Market Restaurant. 7pm. Mike Lipskin House of Shields. 5:30pm. Jason Myers Trio Houstons, 1800 Montgomery; 392-9280. 6pm. Also Thurs/25, Sun/28-Tues/30

Dan Perman Quartet Butterfly, 10pm. With

Al Plank Trio Jazz at Pearl's. 9pm. Gary Rowe Cypress Club. 8pm. Also Tues/30. Tom Shaw Carta, 7pm.

Lenî Stern Bruno's. 9 and 11pm, \$7. See 8

Days a Week, page 60.
Charles Unger Experience Les Joulins. 8pm.

We Three John's Grill, 63 Ellis; 986-0069. 6:30pm. Also Thurs/25-Tues/30. Paula West Plush Room. 8pm, \$20. Also

Bay Area

Baguette Quartet Cato's Ale House, 6pm. Realistic Jupiter, 8pm. With DJ Turtle. Rhythm Section, Judy Hall 19 Broadway.

Bob Schoen Jazz Quartet Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-2662. 8pm. McCoy Tyner Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$26.

Folk/world/country

Acoustic open mic Lost and Found Salvon.

October Brown Plough and Stars. 7pm.
Danilo and Rolando Morales Pier 23. 10pm. Jimbo Trout and the Fishpeople Johnny

Bay Area

Pierre Bensusan Freight and Salvage, 8pm,

Fling Ding, Bluegrass Intentions Ashkenaz. 8pm, \$10. Dance lesson at 8pm.

Dance clubs

Audible Colors *Top. 7pm.* 2-step music with Tasho and guest Simon DK.

Bondage A Go-Go Cat Club. 9pm-3am, \$7-10. With DJs Damion and Fernando.

Cream Butter, Spin-2am.
Dirty Break An Sibin, 1176 Sutter; 929-1992.
9:30pm-2am. With David Michael and Hank the Guy with Records spinning funky breaks

Discover Ruby Skye. 9pm-3am, \$10. House music with various residents and guest M3. Dish Blind Tiger. 9pm. With residents Juss

Derek, Luke, and weekly guests.

Elephunk Justice League. 9pm-2am, \$7. Hiphop music with the Mission and Ren The
Vinyl Archaeologist.

El Rio 7:30pm. Classic Latin music with DJ

Focus Nickie's BBQ. 9pm. DJ Masao and

Bump Tribe spin deep house.

Gather Round Fuse, 493 Broadway; 788-2706. 10pm-2am. With Cinnamon Underpants and DJ Dosign.

Groove Jet Holy Cow. 9pm. With local DJs.

JazzllJungle Tongue and Groove. 9pm, \$5. Live drum 'n' bass and acid jazz with Mood

Food, DJ Denizen, and guests. **Lithium Lounge** 26 Mix. 10pm-2am, \$3. Live jazz and drum 'n' bass with Shan Kenner

Low Oown Grooves Top. 7-10pin. With DJs Schnezzy, Damo, Nicole, and guests spinning downtempo, hip-hop, and funk.

Nessun Dorma HiFi. 10:01pm. With Antony

spinning house.

Poly's Playhouse Hush Hush Lorange. 9pm-2am, \$4. With DJ Polywog and the Tadpoles,

Progress Liquid. 10pm-2am, \$3. DJs Michael Liu and Joseph Lee spin techno and trance. Qoöl 111 Minna St. 5-9pin, \$5. Pan-techno lounge with DJs Spesh, Gil, Hyper D, and

Recline AsiaSF. 7pm, \$5. With Pause, Jamo,

Red Wine Social Dalva, 3121 16th St; 332-5800, ext 211. 10pm-2am. With Toph One. Seance Backflip. 9pm-2am, \$5. Foxxee, Franky Boissy, and Didje Keli spin 2-step

Wednesday Sessions Galaxy, 1840 Haight; 387-2996. 9pm-2am, \$5. House music with David Mejia, Sammy K., and Freddie

Bay Area

Club Fusetti 10pm. Salsa and merengue with Pete Solis. Salsa lessons at 8pm. Soulvation Ruby Room. 10pm-2am. Venue Bluesville. 9:30pm-2am. Soul music with DIs Lash and Inice

Classical

Elixir Ensemble Yerba Buena Gardens, St. Patrick's Church, 756 Mission; 777-3211. 12:30pm, free. The ensemble performs Faure's Piano Quartet no. 1 in C Minor,

Manly Romero San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Hellman Hall, 1201 Ortega; 564-8086. 8pm. The composer and Conservatory alumnus gives a recital of his own works, in-cluding Snowfall on Long Island Sound and

thursday 25

Rock/blues/hip-hop

'Blue Rock'it Blues Revue' Great American Music Hall. 9pm, \$16.50. With Rohben Ford, Chris Cain, Ford Blues Band, and others. Brenda Boykin and Home Cookin' Boom

Oiamond Galaxy, 2xNoise, Killed By Robots Kimo's, 9:30pm.
'DivaBands' first anniversary celebration

Paradise Lounge. 8:45pm, \$7. With Electric Peach, Elin Jr., the Shelley Doty X-tet, Anna Kristina, Liz Pisco, Jane Brody, Kenni, Roberta Donnay, and Staci Twigg Jay Farrar Slim's. Sput, \$17. Through

Frisky Frolics Rite-Spot Cafe, 2099 Folsom;

Inciters, Sensations Hi-Ball Lounge. 9pm. Ledisi Cafe du Nord. 10pm, \$6. With DJ IJ. Little Charlie and the Nightcats Biscuits and Blues. 9pm, \$15

Continued on page 67

SRUNO'S LIVE ENTERTAINMENT **JANUARY** WEDNESDAY 24 LENI STERN Two shows, Cork Club 9 & 11pm, \$10. **THURSDAY 25** BITCHES

LENI STERN

Female Jazz Guitarist (1996-

1997-1998), the German-born

artist left Munich in 1977 to

study composition at the Berklee College of Music in

Boston. Shortly after relocat-

ing to New York City in 19BD,

quartet which included guitarist

Frisell, drummer Paul Motian

recording, Clairvoyant. Her

recordings since then have

been marked by thoughtful

attention to groove and an

uncanny sense of lyricism. Musician magazine praised her

"love of melody and delicate shading" while Jazziz pro-

claimed that "Leni is tracking

territory virtually unknown to

women in jazz. She has also

garnered critical acclaim for

comment from Guitar Player

magazine "Leni has an inner

strength and confidence that

s communicated on her instru

ment with a quiet power."

her playing, including this

BREW Cork Club 10pm, \$7

FRIDAY 26 PORTERHOUSE

Cork Club 10pm, \$7

SATURDAY 27 ZOE ELLIS Cork Club 10pm, \$7

TUESDAY 30 ETIENNE DE ROCHER

Two shows, Cork Club 9 & 11pm, \$7

COMING UP:

Omar Sosa 2/8

Matthew Shipp Trio 2/11, 12, 13

Wayne Horvitz 2/14, 15

Mingus Amungus 2/16

Odean Pope Trio 2/21, 22, 23

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R.L. Burnside

Wed/24. Great American Music Hall

👕 he blues got a much needed jump start when the early-'90s film Deep Blues exposed the raw juke-joint sound of such north Mississippi hill-country artists as Junior Kimbrough and R.L. Burnside. Although Burnside's first recordings appeared on a 1967 Arhoolie compilation, the 73-year-old singer's soulful moan (which retains echoes of his

early influence, John Lee Hooker) is currently the cornerstone of the Oxford, Miss., Fat Possum label, where he has hooked up with young admirers such as Jon Spencer and electronic-savvy producer Tom Rothrock (Beck, Elliot Smith). Burnside's new release, Wish I Was in Heaven Sitting Down, continues in that "everything old is new again" vein with scratching (courtesy of DJ Swamp), samples, and loops colliding in a thrilling pileup with Wurlitzer, piano, and heaps o' guitars (by Smokey Hormel, Rick Holmstrom, Robert Porter, and Kenny Brown). Out of this glorious wreckage comes Burnside's huge voice, stalking demons like John Goodman in the fiery climax to Barton Fink. Fellow (and more acoustic) Fat Possum artist Robert Belfour, who recently released a debut CD at age 60, opens. 9 p.m., 859 O'Farrell, S.F. \$15. (415) 885-0750. (Derk Richardson)







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Black Cat 501 Broadway; (415) 981-2233.

Blind Tiger 787 Broadway; (415) 788-4020.

Blue Lamp 561 Geary; (415) 885-1464.

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City Nights 715 Harrison; (415) 546-7938.

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Covered Wagon Saloon 917 Folsom; (415) 974-

Cypress Club 500 Jackson: (415) 296-8555 Cypress Club 500 Jackson; (415) 296-8555.

Deuces 2319 Taraval; (415) 566-9122.

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Endup 401 Sixth St; (415) 357-0827.

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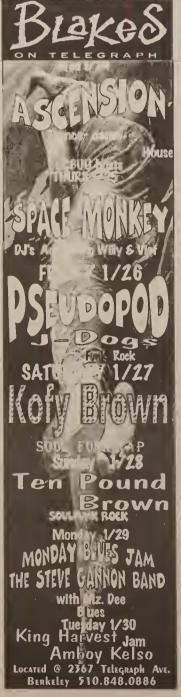
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Thursday 25

From page 63

Nerve Meter, Giant Value Hotel Utah. 10pm,

Notorious Tougue and Groove. 10pm, \$7. Blind Lemon Phillips Johnny Foley's. 9pm. Jamie Sheets Blue Lamp. 9:30pm. Sister Seven, Mike Metz Band, Heather Texas Terri and the Stiff Ones, Rite, Holy Assassins Covered Wagon Saloon. 9:30pm, \$5 Charles Wheal Cosmopolitan Cafe, 121 Spear; 543-4001. 8pm.

Bay Area

Moxi Heartbeat, Neglected Dialectz, DJ Eklectyk, Sugarflip Ashkenaz. 9pm, \$8-15. Benefit for the Berkeley and Oakland Students for South African Relief.

Corncorp, Blue in Green, Busted Lives Kicks 11, 581 Fifth St, Oakl; (510) 839-3006. 10pm. CD-release party for Corncorp. McAllisters, Bellyachers Starry Plough.

Country Pete McGill and His Cottonfield Blues Band 10739 MacArthur, Oakl; (510)

T-Bird, Wooden Americans Fourth Street Tav-

Cat 19 Broadway. 9:30pm.

Jazz/new music

Bitches Brew Bruno's, 10pm, \$7. Blue Room Boys Top of the Mark, 8:30pm, \$8. Bruce and Arnoldino Peña Pachamama, 1630

Powell; 646-0018. 8pm, \$8.

Dick Fregulia-Vince Gomez Duo Cobalt Tav-

ern. 7pm.
Patrick Greene Trio Eastside West. 8pm. Tom Heasley, Thomas Dimuzio Luggage Store Gallery. 8pm, \$6-10. Jack Hicks Carta. 7pm

Frank Jackson Cypress Club. 8pm. Also

Fri/26, Mon/29.

Ed Kelly Pier 23. 10pm.

Shan Kenner Enrico's. 7p. Mike Lipskin and Waldo Carter Moose's. 8pm Larry O'Leno Piano Bar, 1092 Post; 771-2022. om. Also Fri/26-Sat/27

Billy Philadelphia One Market Restaurant. 7pm. Also Fri/26-Sat/27.

Rob Sudduth Jazz at Pearl's. 9pm. Ronald Wilson Quintet Les Joulins. 8pm. Also

Donnas

Sat/27, Fillmore

Bay Area

Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums Kimball's Carnival, 522 Second St. Oakl; (510)

444-6979. 9pm. Joshi Marshall Project Jupiter. 8pm Strange People, Paul West 19 Broadway

Tangria Jazz Group Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-2662. 8pm. McCoy Tyner Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$26. Through Feb 4.

Folk/world/country

Acoustic open mic Sacred Grounds Cafe, 2095 Hayes; 387-3859. 7:30pm. With Todd Tholke and guests.

Darol Anger and Scott Nygaard and the Improbables Last Day Saloon. 9pm, \$12. See 8 Days a Week, page 60.
Azabache Elbo Room. 10pm, \$6.

Bluegrass jam session Atlas Cafe. 8pm. Tipsy House Plough and Stars. 7pm.

Bay Area

Ben Graves, Erika Luckett, Austin Willacy Freight and Salvage. 8pm, \$12.50-13.50. Keni 'El Lebrijano' Albatross, 1822 San Pablo, Berk; (510) THE BIRD. 9pm. 'Women in Salsa' La Peña Cultural Center.

8pm, \$8-10. Hosted by Orquesta D'Soul.

Dance clubs

Advanced Sno-Drift. 10pm-3am, \$10. Drum 'n' bass and 2-step with Dara, UFO!, Method

One, Foxxee, and Science.

Arabian Nights El Rio. 9pm. With Debka.

Body and Soul Backflip. 10pm, \$5. DJs

Reda and Ahmir spin deep grooves and

Circuit Breaker Fuse, 493 Broadway; 788-2706. 9pm-1:30am. With Centipede, Joe Rice, and Oze.

Dirtbox Voodoo Lounge. 9pin-1:30am, \$3. With Evol and Funky J. Vibe.

Electrofreq Butter. 7pm.
Elementary Movida Lounge. 9pm. With DJ
Sloppy J spinning funk and soul.
Faith City Nights. 9:30pm, \$12. With residents Blackstone, Ruben Mancias, Jay-R,

Foxy Lady Lounge Pow! A Cocktail Lounge. 9pm, \$3. With Neil N. Kizmiaz.
Free Liquid. 10pm-2am. With DJ Dimitri

nome celebrate the coming-of-age of local punk darlings the Donnas

at the record-release party for their new album, *The Donnas Turn 21*. The rock 'n' roll teens-turned-twentysomething queens, who go by

world by storm back when they were still in high school, with their sassy

Runaways-meet-Ramones bop-'til-you-drop songs. Even though they're

rowdy live shows recall the glory days of their glam rock heroes. Expect to hear new tunes, catchy classics, and a few arena-style sing-along

all grown up now, it's doubtful adulthood will tame the Donnas, whose

covers from these quitar-rocking daredevil divas. Joining the party are

reunited riot grrrl legends Bratmobile, who revive the musical pulse and

progressive politics of real girl power. The Plus Ones open. 9 p.m., 1805

Geary, S.F. \$12.50. (415) 346-6000. (Sabrina Crawford)

the monikers Donna A., Donna C., Donna R., and Donna F., took the

Continued on page 70

WED 1/24 • 9 PM/8:30 DOORS R.L. BURNSIDE ROBERT BELFOUR

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JOHNNY NOCTURNE w/ KIM NALLEY

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KLEZMER 1/28 8 PM SUN ELLIS ISLAND OLD WORLD FOLK BAND Klez Kids

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Wed. 1/24 53

FUNKANAUTS + CAT BAND

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8:30PM The Local Drinkers

Nervemeter

Fri 1/26 7PM

2nd Set Famous Last words The Greg Howard Band (Dave Mathews)

Sat 1/27

Dryspell In Violet

Sun 1/28 8:30PM "Women To Watch"

w/ Jane Brody, Natasha Miller, Shelly Doty X-Tet, Leni Stern Mon 1/29

Tues 1/30 8:30 PM

Teenage Harlots Bow Roethke

2/1 2/2

2/4

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SATURDAY_01.27.01 > 10pm-8am METROPOLIS MISSIES CONT.

FRIDAY_02.02.01 > 10pm-6am RE-CYCLE agree the son:

dis HIPPI + HALD

WEDNESDAY_02.07.01 > 10pm-4am COMEUNITY

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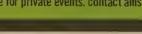
FRIDAY_02.09.01 > 10pm-6am THUMP RADIO HAMME IVE: S.U.N. PROJECT + EYEPHUNK BREAKBEATS

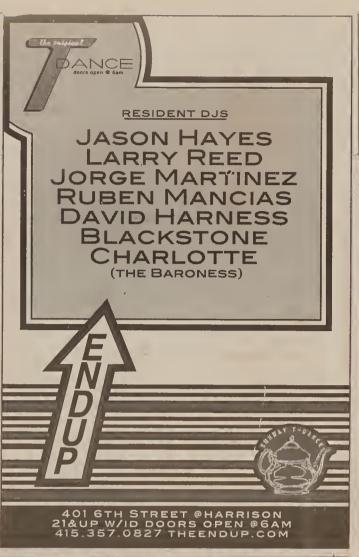






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emember the first time you felt it? When one night the DJ bumped you into the underground, and from then on all you wanted to do was park your ass in the disco derground, and from their on all you wanted to do mae pair, you have neverland? Remember riding the bus, coming down off acid after an all-nighter at some warehouse across the bay and staning at normal people on their way to work, thinking they were clueless and miserable and dull because they didn't share your new-

Every generation of party people feels this way. Ask your grandparents; they'll tell you. Substitute the DJ for the jazz player or the punk rocker — I can't say that I've experienced anything new. But imagine being an 18-year-old club kid in San Francisco today. Almost every club is now 21 and over; up until the mid '90s it seemed like anything with a photo worked as legitimate ID. A 17-year-old could easily slip into almost any club. You just had to be blase enough, or figure out how to properly burn rush your way in beneath the security's radar. These days we're stuck with nosy cops, conscientious club owners, no raves in the city, and a distinct lack of dirt bag-inhabited warehouses. I feel bad for the kids.

This struck me deeply last Friday night as I was having a smoke outside 111 Minna at the Twice as Nice party. To my right stood a couple of young love ravers, dressed in hemp caps, baggy, baggy pants, ratty wool sweaters, and nylon vests.

'What's it like in there?" the boy asked.

"Really good Latin jazz, house, almost anything good" I said, admining the size of their backpacks. "But it may not be your scene. Where you from?"

"Phoenix," the boy answered. "We moved here last week for the music."

"For what kind of music?" I asked.

"Just conscious music," he said. "Like really conscious hip-hop and conscious house. Know where we can find something like that?

I instantly wanted to take them home and feed them cold milk and chocolate cake, tuck them into bed, and make them my very own adopted baby ravers. I've never seen anything quite so cute. "But you're not over 21," I said.

I suggested they locate some good fake IDs and check out sfraves.com and hyperreal.org, since I hardly know about the younger renegade scene. "Namaste," the couple said, bowing, and drifted off -- to the public library to go online.

But the advantage to being jaded is that you can pick and choose when you want to be conscious, and sometimes it's just more fun to be crass. Last Monday night at Liquid turned into one of those dirty, "remember when" nights. It was Travis's last night at Joy the long-running mixed house night over at Liquid — before DJ Ruben Mancias (Endup) takes the reins. And in perfect good-bye form, the party was joyous, messy, and raucous as fuck, culminating in CeCe Penniston's moderately comedic 'Finally,' which provoked the hyped-up Travis fans to scream and scream for anarchy and more. Here's what Travis had to say the day after:

Bay Guardian: Are you a big CeCe fan?

Travis: Only since I saw Priscilla, Queen of the Desert, but until that I never really paid any attention. But yeah, "Finally" is the ultimate party record. I love it! I can sing it to you if you like.

BG: How would you describe your style?

T: Punky, disco mixed with really good house and garage — not the typical stuff you hear everywhere but the really spacey shit. I love fucked-up keyboard sounds. I love house music, but I'm not married to it. I actually prefer the '90 to '93 period. In terms of new stuff, I'm really getting into the West London sound, stuff like Bugz in the Attic and Laws of Motion. Japan's got a couple of labels worth keeping an eye on too. I think all these DJs who have this one particular sound are just boring. Come on, kids, mix that shit up.

BG: Joy is one of the few weekly mixed crowds. How did you build that?

T: I think it was a bunch of different elements coming together that made it so diverse, but it was mainly the 100 percent cheese-free music policy. People kept hearing that the music was really good, so they just kept showing up. It was great 'cause you had the queens there strutting their stuff, freaks who like animals, and people who pick their nose all day.

Travis's top five

Laws of Motion EP (File Records Japan) Nicole Willis's "Soul Makeover" (Sahko Finland)

Photek's "Mine to Give," David Morales Happy Mix (Science UK) Mondo Grosso's "MG4" (Sony Japan). For all you 2-steppers, this is the next level! DJ Profile's Simpletone EP (Barcly France)

Travis spins at Sure Shot with Chris Orr and Ben Cook, Thurs/25, 9:30 p.m.-2 a.m., Top, 424 Haight, S.F. (415) 864-7386.

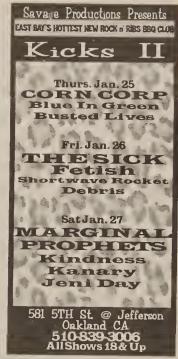
Twice as Nice. All styles of mean-ass, high-quality dance music with residents Tom Thump and Cool Chris, plus monthly guests. Second Fridays, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., 111 Minna, S.F. (415) 974-1719.

Andiegirl. DJs Jonah Sharp (Spacetime Continuum) and Shobhan spin at a benefit for DJ Andie P Cotton, who is recovering from ovarian cancer. Fri/26, 10 p.m.-2 a.m., 26 Mix, 3024 Mission, S.F. (415) 248-1319.

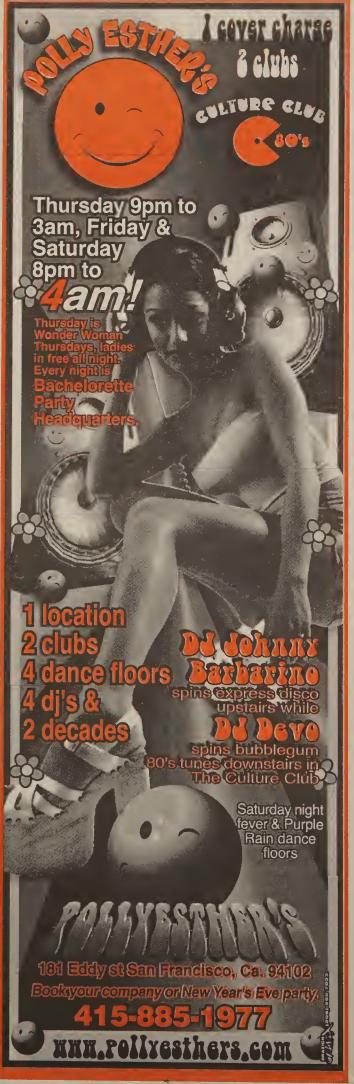
Advanced. Elite Recordings' drum 'n' bass monthly with DJs Dara (Breakbeat Science NYC), UFO! (Phunckateck), and Method One (Atlantiq, Elite) spinning drum 'n' base and Foxxee and Science spinning 2-step. Next Advanced, Thurs/25, 10 p.m.-3 a.m., Sno-Drift, 1830 Third St., S.F. (415) 431-4766, www.eliterecordings.net/events/advance.shtml.

San Francisco Late Night Coalition Benefit. With Shakatura, Lorin, Anon, Polywog, the Live Tadpoles, and Alanc. Thurs/25, 9 p.m.-2 a.m., Space 550, 550 Barneveld, S.F. \$5-\$10. (415) 550-8286

Send comments or tips to ladymarmalade@sfbg.com.







Thursday 25

Fudge Sacrifice. 10pm-2am, \$3. JB spins

hip-hop.
Full Circle Club 238, 238 Columbus; 339-7899. 9pm-6am. With residents Norm Stradley and Ben Doren, and guest Tracy. Instrumental Sound Factory. 10pm-2am, \$5 10. Breaks, dancehall, soul, and old school with residents Mr. E and Qwest, and guests

Kevvy Kev and Relm.

Kit Kat Endup. 10pm-4am, \$10.

Moulin Rouge 1500 Broadway; 346-7683. 9pm-2am. Club classics and house with Charles B., Foxxee, Antony, and Von. 1984 Cat Club. 9pm. '80s music.
Dscillations An Sibin, 1176 Sutter; 929-1992.

9:30pm-2am. House music.

13 98 CD

1298 CD

Reform Skool Stud. 10pm, \$5. Go-go boys, house, and urban beats with DJ Jeff Chan-

8pm. With Teres:

Girl and Wax Chef.

dler and guests.

Soulness Hush Hush Lounge. 9:30pm-2am,

Ponzu Sessions Ponzu, 401 Taylor; 775-7979.

rock and Brit-pop.

Rebel Girl 26 Mix. 9pm-2am, \$4. With China

Popscene 330 Ritch. 10pni-2am, \$5. Indie

\$3. DJ Goldmyne and English Steve spin vintage soul and R&B.

Str8 Up & Down Club. 10pm-2am, \$10. With Ben Doren and Julius Melendez. Sure Shot Top. 10pm-2am, \$5. Garage,

house, and breaks with residents Travis, Ben Cook, and Chris Orr.

What Da Funk Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am. DJ Motion Potion spins old-school funk and

Beatdown Blake's. 9:30pm, \$5. With DJs Delon, Add One, and Yamu spinning dance

Dedicated Followers of Fashion Ruby Room.

10pm-2am. Pop music. Psycho-Synthesis Lost City 23 Club, 23 Vistacion, Brisbane; (415) 467-7717. 9pm-

2am. Industrial, techno, and trance.
Reggae Lounge On Broadway, 334 Broadway, Jack London Sq, Oakl; (510) 663-8189. 9pni-2ani, \$6. With Peja Peja, Polo Mo'xquuz, and

So Many Styles Eli's Mile High Club. 8pm. Funk, soul, and R&B with Styles and

Soundboutique Ivy Room. 10pm. With residents Iacob and Sean.

Classical

Melissa Kleinbart, Suzanne Leon, Geraldine Walther, Tanya Tompkins and Eric Zivian UCSF, Cole Hall Auditorium, 513 Parnassus; 476-2675. Noon, free. The group performs Dvorak's Piano Quintet.

Bay Area

13 % CD

13 % CD

Maxine Heppner and John Sharpley Takara Sake Tasting Room, 708 Addison, Berk; (510) 527-1892. 8pm, \$20. The dancer-choreographer and pianist-composer debut a duet for dance and piano.

New Century Chamber Drchestra St. John's Presbyternan Church, 2727 College, Berk; (415) 433-6226. 8pm, \$25-30. The orchestra presents a concert titled "Lou Harrison's Cello Suites with Emil Miland."

friday 26

Rock/blues/hip-hop

Red Archibald and the Internationals Biscuits and Blues. 9pm, \$12.50.
Biue Floyd Great American Music Hall. 9pm,

Boomshanka Tongue and Groove. 9pm, \$6.
Brad Brooks, Eric Shea and Molly Tuttle Voodoo Lounge. 9pm. Faraway Brothers Blue Lamp. 9:30pm.

Jay Farrar Slim's. 8pm, \$17. Steve Freund Band Cosmopolitan Cafe, 121

Spear; 543-4001. 8pm. Groovy Judy Band Deuces. 9pm. Second Set, Greg Howard Band Hotel Utah.

Ben Hunter and Celtic Scandal Johnny

Eric Johnson and Alien Love Child, Derek

Trucks Band Fillmore. 9pm, \$22.50. Curtis Kamiya Brainwash. 8pm.

Kindness, Hail Marys, Armagetiton Paradise

Zigaboo Modeliste and His New Aahkestra Last Day Saloon. 9pm, \$10.
Mystik Journeymen, Living Legends, Atmos-

phere, M.D.S., Pablo and Equip, Kimiko and Paris, Kirby Dominant Maritime Hall. 8pin,

Pancake Circus, Sourpuss, DJ Markie Bot-

tom of the Hill. 10pm, \$7.

Jonathan Richman Make-Out Room. 9pm,

Shadow Cabinet, 13th Sky Kimo's. 9:30pm 16 Horsepower The Cellar at Johnny Foley's, 243 O'Farrell; 954-0777. 8pm, \$12-14. Through Sat/27

Staptones Pier 23, 10pm.
Starter Kit Edinburgh Castle, 9pm.
Teenage Harlots, Shit Kickers, P.B.R. Street Gang, Ding Dang Tempest. 9pm. Junior Watson Boom Boom Room. 9:15pm,

Jesse Winchester Noe Valley Ministry. 8:15pm, \$16-18.

Bay Area

Bone Meal, Tieneman Squared Port Lite.

Confunkshun Kimball's East. 8 and 10pm, \$24-26. Through Sun/28.
Mark Hummei and the Blues Survivors Ivy

Room. 9:30pm, \$5. Jelly Roll Baltic. 9:15pm.

Chuck Prophet and the Mission Express, Vagabond Lovers Starry Plough. 9:45pm, \$7. Psuedopod, Jdogs Blake's. 9:30pm, \$5.

Sick, Fetish, Shortwave Rocket, Debris Kick's II, 581 Fifth St, Oakl; (510) 839-3006

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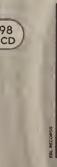
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music calendar

Subincision, Tabloids, Action Palace Stork

Sweet Honey in the Rock UC Berkeley, Zellerbnch Hall, Berk; (510) 642-9988. 8pm,

Tragedy, Yaphet Kotto, Esperanza, Under a Dying Sun 924 Gilman. 8pm, \$5. Wig Salad Fourth Street Tavern. 9:30pm. Carlos Zialcita Eli's Mile High Club. 8pm.

Jazz/new music

Black Market Jazz Orchestra Top of the . 9pin, \$10. Also Sat/27, Big Lou Schroeder's, 240 Front; 421-4778.

Dick Conte Cobalt Tavern. 7pm.
Phillip Crawford-Steve Fowler Ouo Carta.

Ron Graham and Cornerpocket Enrico's.

Chris Huson Moose's. 8pm. Porterhouse Bruno's. 10pm, \$7. Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers

Michael Zilber Quartet Jazz at Penrl's. 9:30pm. Through Sat/27 Paula West Phish Room. 8pm, \$20-25.

Bay Area

Crater Jupiter, Spin.

Hideo Date, Anna and Federico Cervantes Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-

Guy Gash and the Sharp Five Jazz Band Mojo's Cafe, 1768 Broadway, Oakl; (510) 893-7202. 5:30pm. Simple Sample Mills College Chapel, 5000 MacArthur, Oakl; (510) 636-7748. 8pm.

Through Sat/27.

McCoy Tyner Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$30. Through Feb 4.

Folk/world/country

B-Side Players Elho Room. 10pm, \$7 Chieftains Davies Symphony Hall, 401 Van Ness; 864-6000. 8pni, \$15-47. Cheo Conception y Su Orquesta Roccapulco,

3140 Mission; 648-6611. 10pm. Josh Jones Jazz Quartet Eastside West. 9pm.

Little Bird Simple Plensures Cafe. 8pm. Carlos Mencia, Pablo Francisco, Freddy Soto

Warfield. 8pm, \$24.50-26.50. Orla and the Gas Men Plough and Stars. 7pm. Through Sat/20.

Sonando 850 Cigar Bar. 10pm. . Sukay Peña Pachamama, 1630 Powell; 646-0018. 9:30pm, \$7. Also Sat/27. Tocar Circudin. 8pm.

Bay Area

Darvish Clarion Music Center, 816 Sacramento; 391-1317, 8pm, \$12.

Jerry Hannan Band 19 Broadway. 9:30pm, \$8.

Adrian Legg Freight and Salvage. 8pm,

'Mermeladas' Cafe de la Peña, 3105 Shattuck, Berk; (510) 849-2568. 8:30pm. Jam session. Johnny Nocturne Ashkenaz. 9:30pm, \$11. With Kim Nalley. Dance lesson at 8pm. Que Calor La Peña Cultural Center. 8pm, \$12.

Dance clubs

Activate Light, 839 Geary; 474-3216. 5-10pm, \$4. Techno happy hour with Twerk, Single Cell Orchestra, and Minty Fresh.

Assimilate 2000 Cat Club. 9:30pm-3am. Assimilate 2000 Car Crun. 9:30pm-3am. With DJs Damon, and Viper. Atomic Lounge Ten 15 Folsom. 10pm-6am. With residents Michael Anthony and Jonathan Ojeda, and guests Dave Coleman

and Sen-sei.

Backflip 10pm-2nm, \$5. House music with Tom Thump and Anita Lofton. Candy Sacrifice. 10pm-2nm, \$5. Hip-hop, rock, and new wave with Spin and Grand T.

Club NV 9:30pm. House and salsa with Greg Lopez, Von, and Tony O.

Cymbiosis Movida Lounge. 7pm. Hip-hop, Latin and funk with Mike Styles. House Nation Space 550, 10pm-6am, See

"Master at Work," page 52.
Fag Fridays Endup, 10pm-5:30am, \$8. With residents Rolo and Ruhen Mancias, and

guest Kevin Koga. Far East Blind Tiger. 10pm-2nm, \$5. House and 2-step with Paul Craven and guests. Future Fridays 375 First; 281-0866. 9pm-2am, \$10-15. With various residents and

guest D:Fuse. Fogfest An Sibin, 1176 Sutter; 929-1992. 6-Continued on page 72



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Wednesday

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Thursday

Body & Soul . Whea the weekend can't wait, Reda & Almir bring you Body & Soul featuring the latest in deep gropues and jazzy vocal house • Be prepared to move • 10pm. 2am • \$5

Jan. 26 • Tom Thump and Aaita Lofton

Jan. 27 • DJ Francisco from Buenos Aires and Julius Papp

F#@! Tuesdays • Margaret & Drew bring you F#@! Tuesdays Spinning an eclectic mix of 80s, breakbeats, soul, and hip hop • 10pm - 2am

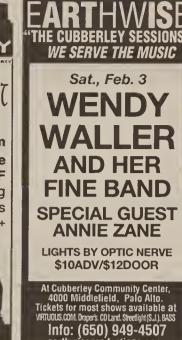
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Launch Pad Paradise Lounge. 8:30pm. Dance

party for women with DJ Sweaty Betty. Life VSF, 278 11th St; 210-8633. 10pm-2am. Soul, R&B, club classics and grooves.

Mandala Amoeba Music. 7pm.
Mexican Bus 9:15pm-2am, \$38, reservations required, '50s style bus tour of several local salsa clubs.

Metronome Ballroom 9pm-midnight, \$6-8.

Latin dance party.

Mission K.D. 26 Mix. 10pm-2am, \$5. House

My Electric Habit Mission Rock, 817 China Basin; 626-5355. 9pm-5am, \$20. House, trance and downtempo with Sen-sei and David Coleman, Kramer, Coup D'Ville, and several others.

Nikita Ten 15 Folsom. 10pm, \$15. With guest Tall Paul.

No Categories 111 Minna St. 9pm-2am, \$5-7. With Gabe Real, Andrew Jervis, and Vinne

Ponzu Sessions Ponzu, 401 Taylor; 775-7979. 8pm. With Kerri.
Pow! A Cocktail Lounge 6pm, \$3. Tribal

house and Latin music with Be Smiley. Raindance Cell, 2050 Bryant; (800) 474-4046. 9pm-5am, \$10-15. Live performance by Mephisto Odyssey, and DJs John Howard, Lorin, Tracy, Little John, and Dachel

Rarefunk 13 Justice League. 9pm, \$10. See 8

Days a Week, page 60.

Sequence Glas Kat. 10pm-2am. With RTig-

Sequence Glas Kat. 10pm-2am. With RTigger, Bruce, Switch, and rotating residents. Square Ruby Skye. 9pm-3am. House music with Preston and Franky Boissy.

Step An Sibin, 1176 Sutter; 929-1992. 10pm-2am, \$5. 2-step with John Paul, Enzyme, Dom Some, and Linzee.

Therapy Blind Tiger. 6-10pm, \$5. House music spun by Maurice and guests.

Wisdom Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am. Wisdom spins funk and soul classics. spins funk and soul classics.

X City Nights. 10pm. House music with resi-

dent David Murray. XL Manhattan Lounge. 9pm-2am. With resi-

dent Repete.

Bay Area

Club Fusetti 10pm. Live Brazilian music with Nobody from Ipanema. **Ruby Room** 10pm-2am. '70s and '80s glam,

rock, and pop music.

Classical

San Francisco Lyric Dpera Spreckels Auditorium, Rohnert Park; 921-7410. 7:30pm, \$12-25. A one-act opera, Ariadne Auf Naxos, is performed, with Heather Ousley and Bar-bara Smith Jones alternating in the title roles. The opera is directed by Marshal Raynor, and Hans Christian Hauser and Eric Gjovaag are the conductors. Through

San Francisco Symphony Davies Symphony Hall, 401 Van Ness; 864-6000. 8pm, \$28-80. The symphony, led by guest conductor Alasdair Neale and featured pianist Max Levinson, performs works by Harbison, Mendelssohn, and Elgar. Through Sat/27.

Bay Area

Golden Gate Brass Quintet Kohl Mansion. 2750 Adeline, Burlingame; (650) 343-8463. 7:30pm, \$5-10. The quintet performs a familv-themed concert.

Dakland East Bay Symphony Paramount Theatre. 8pm, \$15-55. The symphony con-tinues its 2000-2001 season with "Cultural Exchanges," a trio of works featuring guest conductor Stanley Sperber.

saturday 27

Rock/blues/hip-hop

Angelic Upstarts, Working Stiffs, Reducers S.F. Justice League, 8pm, \$15.
Rhonda Benin and Soulful Strut Eurico's.

roll party with Blue Period, Cellophane Mass, Mary Magdalene, and DJ Danny. Brother Buzz Lou's Pier 47. 4pm, \$2.

Ms. Faye Carol Boom Boom Room. 9:15pm,

Cash Hollow, Way Cross El Rio. 10pm, \$5. Cheeseballs, Pop Rocks Bimbo's 365 Club. 9pm, \$16-18.

Cool Water Canyon Last Day Saloon. 9pm, \$7. Donnas, Bratmobile, Plus Dnes Fillmore. 9pm, \$12.50. See Critic's Choice.

Dryspell, In Violet Hotel Utah. 9pm.
Johnny Fabulous Cosmopolitan Cafe, 121 Spear; 543-4001. 8pm.
Barry Goldberg Blues Band Biscuits and

Blues, 8:30 and 10:30pm, \$15. Greasy Porkchop Quartette Atlas Cafe. 8pm.

Groove.org Circadia. 8pm, \$3. Groovy Judy Band Deuces, 2319 Taraval; 564-

Noelle Hampton, Fingers, Dean Del Ray Bottom of the Hill. 10pm, \$7.

Hucklebucks Blue Lamp. 9:30pm.
Country Joe McDonald Noe Valley Ministry.

8:15pm, \$16-18.

Mermen, Vince Converse Slim's. 9pm, \$17.

Most Chill Slack Mob Elbo Room. 10pm, \$6. Pene Deluxe Amoeba Music, 2pm. Tony Perez Band Johnny Foley's. 9pm.
Petrol, Man of the Year, Cafe du Nord. 10pm,

Emily Shore Brainwash, 9pm. 16 Horsepower The Cellar at Johnny Foley's, 243 O'Farrell; 954-0777. 8pm, \$12-14.
Stymie and the Pimp Jones Luv Orchestra

Storyville. 9:30pm, \$7. Wongozi Paradise Lounge. 6pm.

Bay Area

Kofy Brown, Roux Blake's. 9:30pm, \$7. John Compton Band, Rev. Small Wonder Port

Contunkshun Kimball's East. 8 and 10pm,

Deathray, Clocks Ivy Room. 9:30pn, \$5.
Faraway Bröthers Fourth Street Tavern.

Mark Hummel Eli's Mile High Club. 8pm. Kanary, Kindness, Soulcracker, Jenny Day Kick's 11, 581 Fifth St. Oakl; (510) 839-3006.

Kirby Grips, Persephone's Bees Starry Plough. 9:45pm, \$6.

Tanya Scarlett Baltic, 9:15pm. Upside Down, Backwards Jack's Bistro, 10

Washington, Jack London Square, Oakl; (510) 444-1551. 9pm.

Jazz/new music

Don Alberts Cypress Club. 8:30pm. Also

Gerald Beckett Jazz Trio Garibaldi Cafe, 1600 17th St; 552-3325. 7pm.

Bo Grumpus Club Deluxe. 9:30pm.

Zoe Ellis Bruno's. 10pm, \$7.

Filthmilk, Gabriel Multord, Neighborhood

Bass Coalition, Sister Al Delivery Room, 557

Howard; 896-6434. 9pm, \$6-10. Jeanne Hoffman and Don Bennett Moose's.

8pm. Also Tues/30.
Hotter than That 21st Amendment Brewpub and Cafe, 563 Second St; 369-0900. 7pm.

Matt Ingalls Community Music Center, 544
Capp; 642-4281. 8pm, free.
Anton Krukowski-Tim Foley Duo, Phillip
Crawford-Steve Fowler Duo, Mitch Schrift-

Alexander Smith Duo Carta. 9pm. Michael LaMacchia Trio Cobalt Tavern.

BJ Papa Cafe Prague, 584 Pacific; 433-3811.

Post Junk Trio Black Cat. 9:30pm.

Raw Deluxe Eastside West. 9pm. Kazue Sawai New Langton Arts, 1246 Folsom; 626-5416. 8pm, \$8-10.
Paula West Plush Room. 8 and 10:30pm,

Michael Zilber Quartet Jazz at Pearl's. 9:30pm. Through Sat/27

Bay Area

Amaldecore Cato's Ale House, 6pm.
Donald 'Duck' Bailey and the Distones, Anna and Federico Cervantes Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-2662. 8pm.
Simple Sample Mills College Chapel, 5000

Continued on page 74







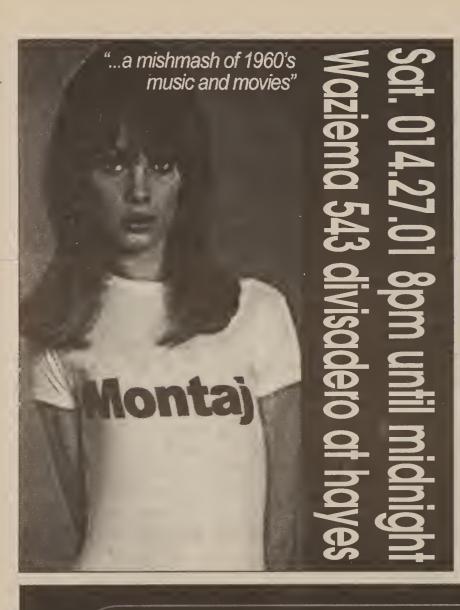


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Saturday, January 27
NATIVE ELEMENTS REGGAE
10PM

Sunday, January 28 RHYTHM CITY W/ ROBERT STEWART 4-8PM

Monday, January 29 MARTY EGGERS -SOLO PIANO 5:00-7:30

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FRIDAY, JANUARY 26 Mark Hummel & The **Blues Survivors** SATURDAY, JANUARY 27 Deathray w/ The Clocks SUNDAY, JANUARY 28 Steve Freund & Guests TUESDAY, JANUARY 30 Mal Sharpe & The Big Money Jazz Band 858 San Pablo, Albany 510-524-9299

music calendar

rock, jazz, folk/world, dance clubs & classical

Saturday 27

MacArthur, Oakl; (510) 636-7748. 8pm. McCoy Tyner Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$30. Through Feb 4.

Folk/world/country

Calico String Band Rite Spot Cafe, 2099 Fol-

Jesus Diaz y su QBA La Peña Cultural Center. 9:30pm, \$12-15. Dance lesson at 8:15pm Mikey Dread Maritime Hall. 8pm, \$18-20.

With guests.

Govea Peña Trio Peña del Sur. 8pm, \$6. See 8

Days a Week, page 60.

Josh Jones Quartet 850 Cigar Bar. 10pm. Little Bird Band Metropolitan Community Church, 150 Eureka; (510) 653-7454. 8pm,

Mike Marshall and Kaila Flexer, San Francisco Klezmer Experience Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 North San Pedro, San Rafael; (415) 479-2000. 8pm, \$24-28. Native Elements Pier 23. 10pm. Orquesta Kache Roccapulco, 3140 Mission;

Pat Ryan's Celtic Junket Stonestown Center, Borders Books and Music, 233 Winston; 731-

Steam Packet Plough and Stars. 7pm Vanessa Verlee Simple Pleasures Cafe. 8pm.

Bay Area Amandia Poets, Zulu Spear Ashkenaz. 9:30pm, \$11.

Darol Anger and Scott Nygaard and the Improbables 19 Broadway. 9:30pm, \$12. See 8 Days a Week, page 60. Mike Greensill Freight and Salvage. 8pm,

Strictly Tango Jupiter. 8pm.

Dance clubs

Backflip 10pm-2am, \$5. House music with DJ Francisco and Julius Papp.

Bas 9:30pm-2am. House, salsa, and club

Bottom Heavy Top. 10pm-2am. U.K. garage and drum 'n' bass with various residents. Eklektic Cat Club. 10pm-3am. Drum 'n' bass with rotating residents, and guests Kaos,

Echo, Havoc, and the Intalekt MCs.
Electrolush Blind Tiger. 10pm-2am, \$5. House and deep tech with rotating residents.
Escapade 7pm-3am, \$20. With resident BB Hayes and guests.

FutureRoots Movida Lounge. 9pm. With Kevin and Huckster.

Green Gorilla Lounge Mission Rock, 817 China Basin; 626-5355. 9pm-4am, \$10. House music with M3, John Howard, Toph One, El Jefe, and several others. Birthday party for M3. Groove Kitty Glas Kat. 9:30pm-2am. House music, trip-hop, and rare grooves with resi-

dents. Hektic Cat Club. 10pm-3am. Breaks with resi-

Hit Parade Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am. Kevin and George spin disco, funk, and soul. Ladies Night Club 238, 238 Columbus; 434-1308. 9pm-6am. Deep house with DJ Midi-

Lifted Soul HiFi. 9pm. Deep house with Dwight Johnson.

Lil' House Party Voodoo Lounge. 10pm-5am, 35. Deep house and downtempo with Marc Anthony, Gabe Real, and J.P. Soul. Metronome Ballroom 9pm-midnight, \$6-8.

Metropolis Space 550. 10pm-8am. With Roland Belmares and Dawna Montel.

Mexican Bus 9:15pm-2am, \$38, reservations required. '50s style bus tour of several local salsa clubs.

Drchld 111 Minna St. 9pm, \$10. Live performance by Organic Grooves, and DJ sets from Ivan and Pope. Dther Whirled Endup. 6am-4pm. With Nobel,

Vince, Christine, and Daniel. **Dushaya** VSF, 278 11th St; (800) 581-2107.

9pm-2am, \$15.

Ponzu Sessions Ponzu, 401 Taylor; 775-7979. 8pm. With Señor Keyvan. Pow! A Cocktail Lounge 9pm, \$3. House

music with Fadrian and Sutake.

Release Ten 15 Folsom, 10pm-6am, \$20. With guest D:Fuse.

Remedy Big Heart City. 9pm-4am. House, soul, and R&B.

San Francisco Butter. 9pm. With rotating residents Lele, Dano, JZ, David Coleman, and Sen-sei

Sister 26 Mix. 9pm-2am, \$5. With Agnes B.,

Sharon Buck, and Girl Friday.

Speed 1028 Geary; 430-2190, ext 1374. 9pm-2am. Hip-hop, R&B, and soul with Mind Motion and Franzen.

Sub Zero Sno-Drift. 10:30pm-4am. House and UK garage with resident Sean Ferguson, and guests Ryan Raddon and Layne Fox. Supastar Sacrifice, 10pm-2am, \$5. With

Universe Club Townsend. 10pm-4am, \$14. House music with David Harness.

Bay Area Gravity Club Fusetti. 10pm. Funk, R&B, soul, and house. Club's anniversary party. Oddessey Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 548-8283. 9pm. Queer youth party featuring hip-hop, house, trance, and an open nic.

Platforms Zazoos, 15 Embarcadero West, Jack London Square, Oakl; (510) 869-1317.

Rimshot Bench and Bar. 120 11th St. (510) 839-0580. 9pm, \$6-8. With Mulatto E., Chris Johnson, Naughtyboy, and Sekou spinning hip-hop, R&B, house, and reggae.

Shelter Chibbo Bar and Grill, 920 University, Berk; (510) 444-6896. 9pm-2am, \$5. Reggae, dancehall, and hip-hop with Mpenzi, Dmadness, and Son of Jules.

Classical

Robert Gurney Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park; 750-3624. 4pm. The organist performs works by Bach, Durfle, and Sousa. Through

San Francisco Lyric Dpera Spreckels Auditorium, Rohnert Park; 921-7410. 7:30pm, \$12-25. Through Sun/28. See Fri/26. San Francisco Symphony Davies Symphony

Hall, 401 Van Ness; 864-6000. 8pm, \$28-80.

San Francisco Symphony Davies Symphony Hall, 401 Van Ness; 864-6000. 8pm, \$28-80. Through Sun/21. See Thurs/18.

New Century Chamber Drchestra Herbst

Theatre, 401 Van Ness; (415) 433-6226. 8pm, \$25-30. See Thurs/25.

Bay Area

Kazuko Cleary Trinity Chapel, 2320 Dana, Berk; (510) 549-3864. 8pm, \$8-10. The pi-anist performs Beethoven's Appasionata, as well as works by Schubert, Gottschalk, and

Chopin.
College of Marin Winter Dpera College of
Marin, Fine Arts Theater, 835 College, Kentfield; (415) 485-9668. 8pm, \$10. The opera
presents a revival of Michael Nyman's The
Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat, along
with Iwo short works, Bartok's Village Scenes
and "Poulenc Cabaret." Through Sun/28.
"Musical Night Dut II" Pacific School of Religion Chapel, 1798 Scenic, Berk; (510) 8498280. 8pm, \$10. Pianist Caroline Smith,
members of the San Francisco Conservatory
of Music, mezzo-sovano Rasek, Vargnari of Music, mezzo-soprano Raeeka Yagmai, and composer Eleanor Armer are some of the participants in this concert.

David Rogers MusicSources, 1000 The Alameda, Berk; (510) 528-1685, 5pm, \$15-18. The guitarist performs various compositions using a variety of instruments, including the vihuela, a baroque guitar, and a 19th-centu-

Teatro Bacchino Crowden School Theater, 1475 Rose, Berk; (510) 658-3382. 8pm, \$15-20. The local baroque opera company pre-sents a production of Handel's Clori, Tirsi e Fileno, with sopranos Melissa Fogerty and Jennifer Ashworth and mezzo soprano Elspeth Franks.

sunday 28

Rock/blues/hip-hop

'Americana' Kimo's 3pm.
Blues jam Blue Lamp. 9:30pm. With Pimp

Daddy Jesus. Leni Stern, Jane Brody, Natasha Miller, Shel-

ley Doty X-tet Hotel Utah. 8:30pm, \$5. See 8 Days a Week, page 60. Wendy Dewitt Boom Boom Room. 9:15pm, \$3.

Granfaloon Bus Make-Out Room. 8:30pm,

Continued on page 77

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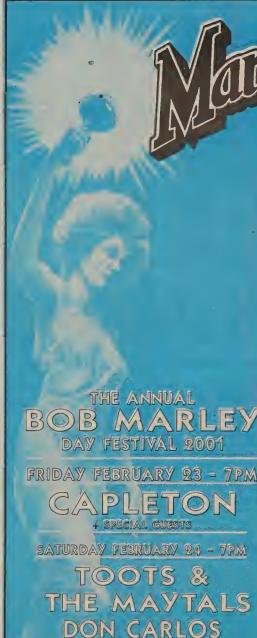
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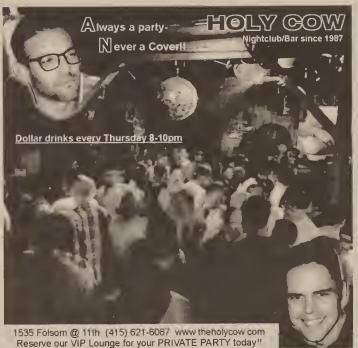
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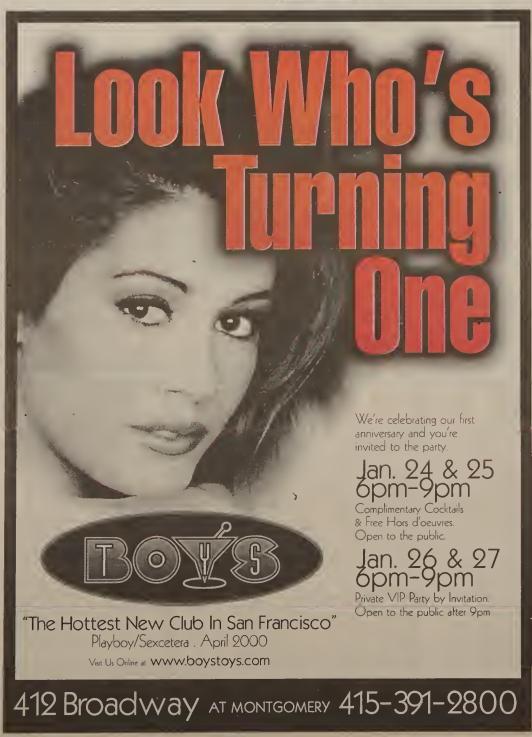
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music calendar

Sunday 28

Ali Handal Covered Wagon Saloon, 8pm, \$5. Kathy Lemons and Johnny Ace Band Biscuits and Blues, 8:30pm, \$5

'Super Bowl Extravaganza' Bottom of the Hill. 5:30pm, \$6. With Joe Buck and Lawrence Iconoclast. All-you-can-eat BBQ

at 4pm. Vue, Clocks, Black Cat Music Kimo's. 9:30pm. Che Zuro, Pi, Liz Pisco Paradise Lounge. 8pm, \$4. With Drums 'n' Space in the upstairs

Bay Area

Confunkshun Kimball's East. 8 and 10pm,

18 Visions, 12 Tribes, Blood Has Been Shed, Anti Oomestix 924 Gilman. 5pm, \$5. Martin Fierro Quintet, Honey Pot Fourth Street Tavern, 9:30pm.

Steve Freund Ivy Room. 9:30pm, \$5. With

Ten Pound Brown Blake's. 9:30pm, \$3.

Jazz/new music

Cedric Brown and Charles Mister Jon Sims Center for the Arts, 1519 Mission; 554-0402.

Dorothy and Henry Piaf's. 11:30am-2:30pm.
Mike Greensill Moose's. 7:30pm. With guests.
Alan Hightman Simple Pleasures Cafe. 7pm.
Love Motel Rassellas. 6pm.

Larry O'Leno Piano Bar, 1092 Post; 771-2022.

Rhythm City Pier 23. 4pm. Mitch Schrift-Alexander Smith Ouo Carta.

Walter Scott Enrico's. 7pm.
Bill Travis Orchestra Top of the Mark. 8:30pm, \$8. Dance lessons at 7pm. Paula West Plush Room. 5pm, \$20.

Bay Area

Aaron Bennett, Tom Bickley *Tuva Space*, 3192 *Adeline*, *Berk*; (510) 444-3595. 7:48pm, \$8. Jazz jam session Bluesville. 8pm.

Lost Trio Cato's Ale House, 6pm 19 Swing Band, Dori and Dave 19 Broadway.

OM Anna's, 1801 University, Berk; (510) 849-

McCoy Tyner Yoshi's. 2 and 8pm, \$5-30.

Folk/world/country

Tony McMahon Johnny Foley's. 9pm. Seisuin Plough and Stars. 7pm. With Jack Gilder, Junji Shirota, and Kevin Bernhagen.

Bay Area

Ellis Island Old World Folk Band Ashkenaz.

8pm, \$8. Ökrös Folk Ensemble, Aladár Csíszár Freight and Salvage. 8pm, \$16.50-17.50.

Open mic Stork Club. 9pm.

'Starry Session' Starry Plough. 8pm. With Shay Black.

Dance clubs

Bionic The Top. 10pm-2am. With Solar, Mark E. Ouark, and 1z.

Brainwash 5-8pm. DJ Turtle spins drum 'n'

Club Havana Jelly's. 4pm, \$7. Salsa music with Charanga Nueve and DJ Luis Medina. Oub Mission Elbo Room. 9pm-2am, \$6. Dub and roots reggae with Sasha, Frosty, DJ Sep, Zeb, and Dr. Rock.

Fabric Justice League. 9pm, \$7. Multimedia event with Ledisi, Marcus Shelby, and DJs

Reborn and Sake One.

Hot Hair Care Beauty Bar. 10pm-2am. Electro and synth pop with Bre-ad, Actual Jakshun,

Magnitude B.O. N'Touch Dance Club, 1548 Polk; 444-8413. 8pin-2am. With Jack Rojo, Lambchop, Shawn Perry, and Derek. Metronome Ballroom 5-8pm, \$5. Jitterbug dance party. 8-11pm, \$5-8. Salsa night.

Obliyion Tongue and Groove. 7pm-2am, \$5. Johnny, Carlos, and Schaeffer spin house

Pleasuredome Club Townsend. 9pm-3:30am, \$7. With Neil Lewis and Michael Man-

Rebirth 330 Ritch. 10pm. Soul and hip-hop with Henry, Joe Quixx, Kevvy Kev, and Will. Reggae Sundaze Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am, \$5.

Reggae music spun byu DJ King David,

Reggae Husic Spuriby U. 7 King David, General Patton, and other residents. **She Said** Cat Club. 9pm. Blues, honkytonk, and punk with Catfish, Hick Smokey, and Reverend Slick.

Spundae 1015 Folsom. 10pm-5:30am, \$5.

With rotating DJs and guests. Stargate City Nights. 9pm-2:30am. Trance,

techno, house, and drum 'n' bass.
Sunday School Sno-Drift. 10pm-4am, \$10. With Patrick Wilson, Ruben Mancias, and resident DJs.

Sushi 26 Mix. 3:30-10pm, \$5. With DJ Gray

and rotating residents. **T-Dance** Endup. 6am. House music with rotating residents.

Tripp Beale Street Bar and Grill, 133 Beale; 543-1961. 6pm-2am, \$5-8. With rotating residents.

Bay Area

Club Fusetti 9pm. World beat, house, Latin, and reggae music with DJ Ruben.

Classical

Chamber music Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, 290 Dolores; 575-4961. 4pm, \$5-25. Several featured musicians, including San Jose Symphony violinist Randall Weiss and violist Patricia Whaley from the Montclair Duo per-form works by composers once held at the Terezin concentration camp in the 1940s. Clark Griffith Old First Church. 4pm, \$7-9

The pianist performs a repertoire highlighted by Bach's Italian Concerto, BWV 971. Robert Gurney Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park; 750-3624. 4pm. See Sat/27. Hans Uwe Hielscher St. Mary's Cathedral,

1111 Gough; 567-2020, ext 213. 3:30pm. The organist gives a recital.

San Francisco Lyric Opera Spreckels Auditorium, Rohnert Park; 921-7410. 2:30pm, \$12-

Bay Area

College of Marin Winter Opera College of Marm, Fine Arts Theater, 835 College, Kent-field; (415) 485-9668. 3:17pm, \$10. See

New Century Chamber Orchestra Osher Marm Jewish Community Center, 200 North San Pedro, San Rafael; (415) 433-6226. 8pm, \$25-30. See Thurs/25.

San Francisco Symphony St. John's Presbyterian Church, 2727 College, Berk; (415) 584-5946. 3:15pm, \$7-16. Members of the Symphony perform an afternoon of chamber music, including a violin sonata by Beethoven.

mondav 29

Rock/blues/hip-hop

Blues Cowboy and the Texas-T Band Boom

Boom Room. 9:15pm, \$3. lan Brennan Show Brainwash. 9pm. California Guitar Trio, Richard Leo Johnson Great American Music Hall. 8pm, \$20-23 Ee, Western, Xiu Xiu Bottom of the Hill.

Oavid Hopkins, Muons Make-Out Room.

8:30pm, \$6. Napata Mero Mecca, 2029 Market; 621-

'Monday Night Hoot' Cafe du Nord. 9pm, \$5. With Eric Shea, Molly Tuttle, and guests. Kevin Russell Biscuits and Blues. 8:30pm,

That One Guy and His Magic Pipe Elbo

Bay Area

'Blue Monday Jam' Blake's. 9:30pm, \$3. With the Steve Gannon Band.

Green Eggs and Schramm Fourth Street Tav-

ern. 9:30pm. Country Pete McGill and friends A&C Club, 1950 San Pablo, Oakl; (510) 893-4100. 9pm.

Jazz/new music

Dick Conte One Market Restaurant, 7pm. Contemporary Jazz Orchestra Jazz at Pearl's.

Spm.
Martin Eggers Pier 23. 5pm.
Ezra Gale Trio North Star Restaurant, 288
Connecticut; 551-9840. 6pm.
Kevin Gibbs and Ruth Davies Moose's. 8pm.

Barbara Hunter Quintet Les Joulins. 8pm.

*Continued on page 78

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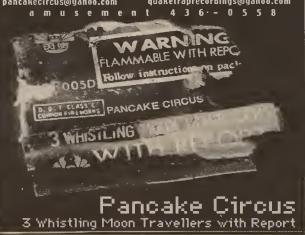
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rock, jazz, folk/world, dance clubs & classical

Monday 29

Steve Lucky and the Rhumba Bums Startight

Larry D'Leno Eurico's. 7pm. With guests.

Bay Area

Dragonfly Jazz Trio Anna's, 1801 University, Rerk: (510) 849-2662, 8pm

Jazz improv jam session Black Dot Cafe, 2330 International, Oakl; (510) 533-6629.

79m, \$3.
Tim Price Big Band 19 Broadway. 9:30pm.
Wayne Wallace Latin Jazz Septet Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$6-8.

Folk/world/country

Acoustic open mic Blue Lamp. 9:30pm. Open mic Simple Pleasures Cafe. 8pm. With

Liza Silva y Voz Do Brazil Top of the Mark.

Bay Area 'Ceili' Starry Plough. 9pm.

Dance clubs

Club Dread Justice League. 9pm, \$10. Forward An Sibin, 1176 Sutter, 929-1992. 8pm-2am, \$3. Urban music with BVDub, Monkey and 4AM.

Grateful Dead Jams Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am. Dark Star Dan plays rare Grateful Dead

Open turntables Movida Lounge. 8pm. Rockin' Java 1821 Haight; 831-8842. 7pm.

Hip-hop and open mic.

Shaft The Stud. 9pm-2am, \$5. Hip-hop, reggae, and R&B with Mind Motion, Switch, and Deft.

Smoove Blind Tiger. 9pm-2am. House music. Star Lounge Up & Down Club. 10pm-2am, \$5. DJ Henry and guests spin soul, dance-

Tranquility Base 26 Mix. 9pm-2am. Ambient sounds with DF Tram and guests.

Tranquilo Amnesia. 10pm-2am. Drum 'n' bass, downtempo, and abstract hip-hop with

Kamahele, Presha, and G.A.S. Vroom El Rio. 8pm-midnight. Punk, funk, and soul

Classical

330

WEDNESDAY

FRIDAY

SATURDAY

1/26

RITCH STREET

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1/25 POPSCENE

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1/27 CLOSED FOR PRIVATE PARTY

Soul/Dancehall/Salsa

Soul/R&B

Francesco Trio San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Hellman Hall, 1201 Ortega; 759-3475 8pm, \$6-10. The faculty artists — violinist Miwako Watanabe, cellist Bonnie Hampton, and pianist Nathan Schwartz — perform works by Mendelssohn, Brahms, and others Left Coast Chamber Ensemble War Memorial Performing Arts Center, Green Room, 401 Van Ness; 642-8054. 8pm, \$12-15. The ensemble presents a concert titled "Antonin Dvorak and Other Composers of Eastern Europe."

tuesdav 30

Rock/blues/hip-hop

Scott Amendola Band, Stephen Yerkey Cafe

du Nord 9:30pm, \$5.
Big Bones Biscuits and Blues. 8:30pm, \$5. Blue Öyster Cult Slim's. 8pm, \$18. See 8 Days

a Week, page 60.
'Divabands' Red Devil Lounge. 8:15pm, \$5.
With Penny Framstad, Deborah Winters,

and Fynn.

Drizzoletto Brainwash. 8pm.

Andrew Freeman Band Blue Lamp. 9:30pm.

Linkin Park, Taproot, Styles of Beyond Fill-

Lucky Stiffs, Oozies, Debris Bottom of the

Hill. 9pm, \$5. Dscar Myers' Bluesbeat Boom Boom Room.

'New Roots to Hip-Hop' Last Day Saloon. 9pm, \$5. With Felonious. Open mic El Rio. 7:30pm.

Open mic Paradise Lounge. 8:30pm. With

Pink and Brown, Total Shutdown, Lybithith, Extreme Elvis Kimo's. 9:30pm.

Bay Area

'Bandworks' Ashkenaz. 7pm, \$3. Open jam

Faraway Brothers Fourth Street Tavern.

King Harvest Blake's. 9:30pm, \$3.

Jazz/new music

Ftienne de Roche Bruno's 9 and 110m, \$7. Ezra Gale Trio Annesia. 9pm. Gerry Grosz Trio Beach Chalet. 6:30pm. Hot Club of San Francisco Enrico's. 7pm. Not club of San Francisco Enricos, Apm. Vince Lateano Trio Jazz at Pearl's, 9pm. Paul Mindrup Simple Pleasures Cofe. 8pm. Kevin Rayhill One Market Restaurant, 7pm. Lavay Smith and Her Red Hot Skillet Lickers Top of the Mark. 8:30pm, \$8.
Bishop Norman Williams Quintet Les Joulins.

Bay Area

Mal Sharpe and the Big Money Jazz Band $\hbar\gamma$

McCoy Tyner Yoshi's. 8 and 10pm, \$26.

Through Feb 4. String Jazz Duo Anna's, 1801 University,

Berk; (510) 849-2662. 8pm

Folk/world/country

Nobody from Ipanema Elbo Room. 9pm, \$6. Seisuin Plough and Stars. With Jack Gilder, Junji Shirota, and Kevin Bernhagen.

Bay Area

Open mic Starry Plough. 7:30pm. Danny Uzilevsky 19 Broadway. 9:30pm.

Dance clubs

Asia Africa Arabia *Nickie's BBQ. 9pm-2am.* DJ Cheb i Sabbah spins a blend of interna-

tional nusic.

Connected Rawhide. 9pm. House music with residents Needles, Aspex, and Silver-

Coolin' Blind Tiger, 9pm-2am. With TJ and guest Dls.

Development AsiaSF. 10pm. Option, Refer-

ence, and Raygun spin breakbeat and house. **Down There** 26 Mix. 9pm-2am. Hip-hop and downtempo with residents Monkey and Stef.

Stef.

F#@! Tuesdays Backflip. 10pm-2am. '80s
music, soul, breakbeat, and hip-hop.

Fury Cat Club. 9pm.

Karamba Glas Kat. 9:30pm-2am.
Node Pow! A Cocktail Lounge. 9pm-2am.
Indie rock and electronica with Thorsten
Sideboard and guests.

Soul Samba Dalva, 3121 16th St; 252-7740.
10pm-2am. Latin beats with El Super
Chente, Hat Trick Jonny, and Asti Spumanti.

Wax Sacrifice. 10pm-2am, \$5. Soul music with DJs Wisdom, Pause, and Sake One.

Bay Area

Club Fusetti 9pm. Hip-hop and R&B with

Mad Hatter Bench and Bar, 120 11th St; (510) 496-6000, ext 120. 9pm-2am, \$3-5. Underground dance music

Ruby Room 10pm-2am. Punk rock.



Classical

Seth Montfort Presidio Chapel, Presidio, 130 Seth Montfort Presidio Chapel, Presidio, 130 Fisher Loop; 362-6080. 8pin, \$10. The pianist premieres three sonatas: "The Haunted House Sonata," "The It'snota Sonata" and "The Rococo Revival Sonata."

Musica Pacifica Bank of America Center, A.P. Giamini Auditorium, 555 Califorma; 252-1288. Noon. The ensemble gives a concert of byroose and classical music.

baroque and classical music

events

Events listings are compiled by Mosi Reeves. See 8 Days a Week for information on how to submit items to the listings

wednesday 24

Around town

'Trademark 101' Fort Mason Center, Califor ma Lawyers for the Arts, Bldg C, Rm 255, Marma at Buchanam, 775-7200, ext 547. 7-8:30pm, \$5-15. An intellectual-property attorney lectures on various issues surrounding trademarks.

Authors

K.C. Cole Exploratorium, McBean Theater, 3601 Lyon; 563-7337. 7pm, \$2.50-9. The science writer is interviewed by physicist Thomas Humphrey and signs copies of *The* Hole in the Universe.

Derrick Jensen Modern Times Bookstore, \$88

Valencia; 282-9246. 7:30pm, free. The environmental activist talks about A Language

Peg Jordan Solar Light Books, 2068 Union; 567-6082. 7:30pm, free. The author discusses

The Fitness Institut.

Wendy Lesser San Francisco Public Library,
Harvey Milk Memorial branch, 3555 16th St;
557-4277. Tpm, free. The founder of the
Threepenny Review discusses her work.

James Salter A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness; 441-6670. 7:30pm, free. The novelist discusses Cassada.

Rebecca Solnit and Susan Schwartzenberg City Lights Booksellers and Publishers, 261 Columbus; 362-8193. 7pm, free. The two au-thors speak on Hollow City: The Siege of San Francisco and the Crisis of Urbanism.

Bay Area

Tracy Chevalier Book Passage, 51 Tamal Vista, Corte Madera; (415) 927-0960. 7:30pm, free. The novelist discusses Girl with a Pearl Earring.

Tricia Thomas Marcus Books, 3900 MLK Jr.,

Oakl; (510) 652-2344. 6:30pm, free. The novelist discusses Nappily Ever After.

thursday 25

Around town

'Japan Year in Review: Politics and Economics' World Affairs Council, 312 Sutter; 293-4600. 5:15pm, \$3-10. The Ministry of International Trade and Industry's Shuhei Kishimoto and Ed Lincoln, senior fellow at the Brookings Institution, present this lecture

Bay Area

'Climbing Mount Everest' REI Berkeley, 1338 Sau Pablo, Berk: (510) 527-4140. 7pm, free. Environmentalist Bob Hoffman, who has led several cleanup expeditions on Mount Ever-est, gives a slide presentation on the formi-

KDFC listener party Chabot Space and Science Center, 10000 Skylme, Oakl; (510) 336-7300. 6:30-9:30pm, \$30. The classical radio station hosts a party and reception with classical music and light hors d'oeuvres amid Chabot's science facilities.

Allison Sanders Pacifica Library, 104 Hilton, Pacifica; (415) 502-7851 7:30pm, free. The marine biologist discusses bottlenose dol-

phins in Belize during this open meeting of the San Francisco Bay chapter of the American Cetacean Society

Authors

Tracy Chevalier A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness; 441-6670. 7:30pm,

Alexander Cockburn and Jeffrey St. Clair Modern Times Bookstore, 888 Valencia; 282-9246. 7:30pm, free. The two journalists dis-cuss Five Days That Shook the World. James Fadiman Booksmith, 1644 Haight; 863-8688. 7pm, free. The author signs copies of and reads from The Other Side of Haight. 'Unfolding Beauty: Celebrating California's Landscapes' Mechanics' Institute Library, 57 Post; 393-0100. 6pm, \$5. Actors Jessica Teeter

and William Leslie Howard read selections

from this literary anthology.

Bay Area

Catherine Ryan Hyde Book Passage, 51 Tamal Vista, Corte Madera; (415) 927-0960. 7:30pm, free. The novelist reads from Electric

Norman Stolzoff Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 845-7852. 7:30pm, free. The professor discusses Wake the Town and Tell the People: Dancehall Culture in Jamaica.

friday 26

Around town

'Recess!' Fort Mason Center, Bldg C, Rm 205, Marina at Buchanan; 885-5678. 7:30pm, \$15-20. Adults can engage in group games and activities during this extended play period hosted by ImprovWorks.

Authors

Thomas Flanagan United Irish Cultural Center, Saint Francis Room, 2700 45th Ave; 381-4037. :30pm, free. The author delivers the lecture History and Fiction in Irish Literature

Anita Shreve A Clean Well-Lighted Place for Books, 601 Van Ness; 441-6670. 7:30pm, free. The writer talks about Fortune's Rocks.

Bay Area

Dr. Alan Bonsteel Barnes and Noble, 119 Colma, Colma; (650) 756-1228. 7:30pm, free. The author discusses Stay Young, Start Now: A Family Doctor's Guide to More Energy, Less

A Family Doctor's Guide to Nove Energy, Less Stress and Better Sex. James Carroll Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 845-7852. 7:30pm, free. The au-thor talks about Constantine's Sword: The

Corte Madera; (415) 927-0960. 7:30pm, free. See Wed/24

Guy Johnson Shades of Sienna, 582 Grand, Oakl; (815) 394-3904. 6-7pm, free. The author signs copies of Standing at the Scratchline. Luisah Telsh Marcus Books, 3900 MLK Jr., Oakl; (510) 652-2344. 6:30pm, free. The author discusses Jump Up: Good Times
Throughout the Seasons with Celebrations
from Around the World.

saturday 27

Around town

'Burns Night' Edinburgh Castle, 950 Geary; 885-4074. 8pm, \$5. The life and writings of Scotland's national poet are celebrated with a buffet and haggis, a bagpipe performance by Harold Wilkes, and readings of Burns'

Devil-Ettes second-anniversary celebration Verdi Club, 2424 Mariposa; 861-9199, 9pm-2am, \$10. See 8'Days a Week, page 60.

Miss Chinatown USA pageant Palace of Fine

Arts Theatre, 3301 Lyon; 397-8988. 7:30 \$25-100 The San Francisco Chinese Chamber of Commerce hosts this event in conjunction with its annual celebration of Chinese New Year.

Mission Bay waterfront tour Meet at Justin Herman Plaza, 4 Embarcadero Center; 431-BIKE. Hans, \$5. Environmental historian David D. Schmidt leads a tour along the city's eastern waterfront, stopping at land-marks such as Heron's Head Park and the site of a Chinese fishing village.

Bay Area

Angela Davis, Ericka Huggins, and Ida Robinson Marcus Books, 3900 MLK Jr., Oakl; (510) 652-2344. 7pm, free. The three activists present the discussion "Women and Black Liberation: Then and Now" as part of the "Word on the Street" festival.

DREES fifth-anniversary celebration Parnow Friendship House, community room, 164 North San Pedro, San Rafael; (415) 479-3504. 1-3:30pm, free. Help celebrate Disability Rights Enforcement Education Services' birthday by partaking in food, art, and ca-

Earthquake preparedness class Office of Emergency Services, 997 Cedar, Berk; (510) 644-8736. 9ani-noon, free. This semiregular class for Berkeley residents teaches you to be prepared in the event of an earthquake.
Today's seminar focuses on fire suppression
'Healing into Life: Women Surviving Domes-

tic Violence and Sexual Assault' Allen Tem-ple Baptist Church, J. Alfred Smith Hall, 8501 International, Oakl; (510) 551-1747. 2pm, free. Authors Evelyn White and Staci Haines and East Bay Women Against Rape's Bette Davis lead this panel discussion during the "Word on the Street" festival.

Oakland Public Library's 50th-anniversary celebration Oakland Public Library, main branch, 125 14th St. Oakl; (510) 238-3134. Ham-4:30pm, free. The Library celebrates its anniversary with a ceremony featuring several elected officials; performances by the Oakland Youth Chorus, the Asian Youth Lion Dance Troupe, and several others; and music and dancing. Attendees are encour-aged to arrive in '50s costumes reminiscent of patrons who attended the library during its opening half a century ago

Benefits

Record sale San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Hellman Hall, 1201 Ortega; 759-3440. 10am-5pm, \$5. Through Sun/28. Thousands of used albums will be on sale during this benefit for the conservatory's scholarship fund.

Authors

Cara Black San Francisco Mystery Bookstore, 4175 24th St; 282-7444. Noon, free. The novelist reads from and signs copies of Murder

Michael Chabon Cartoon Art Museum, 814 Mission; 243-8666. 2-4pm, free. The novelist signs copies of The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay.

Bay Area

Stacy Taylor Oakland Public Library, Rock-rudge branch, 5366 College, Oakl; (510) 234-7224. 3pm, free. The author discusses Living Well with a Hidden Disability.

Continued on page 80

The San Francisco Foundation LITERARY AWARDS

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Two \$2,000 Literary Awards for unpublished fiction, nonfiction, poetry or drama.

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COMMUNIVERSITY



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7:30pm Knuth Hall, SFSU 19th at Holloway Avenues

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Tues., Feb. 6

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events calendar

around town, authors, attractions & benefits

From page 79

sunday 28

Around town

Punk soccer Golden Gate Park (field between Seventh and Ninth Aves off Lincoln); 566 0696 or christupher@hotmail.com. 2pm, free. See 8 Days a Week, page 60.

Benefits

Record sale San Francisco Conservatory of Music, Hellman Hall, 1201 Ortega; 759-3440. 10am-5pm, \$5. See Sat/27.

mondav 29

Around town

'Meditation and Relaxation: Keys to Stress Management' UCSF, Hellman conference room, 2200 Post; 885-3693. 5-7pm, free. Clin-ical hypnotherapist Pragito Dove leads this

Geoff Nunberg Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness; 392-4400. 8pin, \$20. The linguist and National Public Radio commentator speaks with several members of the American Heritage Dictionary usage panel — Robert Hass, Maxine Hong Kingston, Wendy Lesser, and John Baugh.

Authors

Chip Conley Book Passage, 51 Tamal Vista, Corte Madera; (415) 927-0960. 7:30pm, free. The author reads from The Rebel Rules: Daring to Be Yourself in Business.
Tim Wohlforth Cody's Books, 2454 Telegraph,

Berk; (510) 845-7852. 7;30pm, free. The coau thor of On the Edge: Political Cults Right and Left discusses the issues surrounding his book

ituesdav 30

Around town

'Where Are the Women in Technology?' UCSF, Nursing building, Rm 225, 505 Parnassus; 476-5222. Noon-Ipm, free. Dr. Janese Swanson, who is responsible for gender-informed products, demonstrates some of her work during a multimedia presentation.

Barry Hansen Booksmith, 1644 Haight; 863-8688. 7pm, free. The author, better known as radio personality Dr. Demento, reads from and signs copies of Rhino's Cruise Through the Blues.

Bay Area

Suze Orman Osher Marin Jewish Community Center, 200 North San Pedro, San Rafael; (415) 444-8082. 7:30pm, \$16-25. The author of The Courage to Be Rich is interviewed by Patricia Holt.

attractions/kid stuff

California Academy of Sciences Golden Gate Park; 750-7145. Wed-Tues, 10ani-5pin. \$2-8.50 (free first Wed). The academy includes the Steinhart Aquarium, the Morrison Plan-etarium, and the Natural History Museum; current exhibits include "Venoms: Striking Beauties" and "At Home in Vanuatu: Tradi-tion in the West Pacific." Wed: A live taran-tula presentation is held during "Tarantula: Beauty or Beast?" 12:30 and 2:30pm. Thurs: Meet live snakes during "Snake Mimicry," 12:30 and 2:30pm. Sat; Learn how to treat a venomous sting or bite in "Venoms ER," 12:30 and 2:30pm; David Vargas and the dancers of Tezkatlipoka present "Traditional Aztec Dances," 1pm. Sun: A screening is shown of a PBS miniseries based on Marc Reisner's Cadillac Desert, 11am; scientist Angel Valdés presents "Slugfest," 12:30pm. Creative writing workshop San Francisco Public Library, main branch, 100 Larkin; 557-4277. Tues, 4-6pm. Free. This weekly workshop is offered by the Youth Speaks program. Exploratorium 3601 Lyon; 563-7337. Wed, 10am-9pm; Thurs-Tues, 10am-5pm. \$2.50-9

(free first Wed). The museum features hands-on exhibits relating to art, science, and human perception. Sat: A live Webcast is shown of a program designed by the Exploratorium's high school participants, 2pm.

Randall Museum 199 Museum Way; 554-9600. Tues-Fri, 10am-5pm. \$6-7. This muse-um has exhibits and activities for kids. Exhibits include "Trash Bash," an exhibit that teaches how to conserve natural resources teaches now to conserve natural resources with illustrations and graphics, and "Essentially an Estuary: Our Beloved Bay." Sat: "Saturdays are Special" continues with "Under-the-Sea Mobile," 1pm-4pm; artist Ane Carla Rovetta hosts a workshop, "Wet, Wild and Weedy: Weaving Wetland Plants,' 1-4pm. \$5-15, reservations required. 'Rumpelstiltskin' Fort Mason Center, Bldg C.

Rm 300; 346-5550. Sat, 1pm; Sun, 1 and 3:30pm. \$5-8. Through Feb 11. The Young Performers Theatre uses live actors and puppets to present this classic Gothic tale of a

San Francisco Maritime Park Fisherman's Wharf at Hyde Street Pier, Hyde at Jefferson; 556-3002. Daily, 10am-5pm. \$2-5. In the nation's only "floating" park, historic sailing ships are berthed at the pier for visitors to explore. Sun: Explore the tugboat Hercules,

2:30-3:30pm. San Francisco Zoo Sloat at 45th Ave; 753-7080. Daily, 10am-5pm. \$3-11. Check out the meerkat and prairie dog exhibit.

Saturday Art Programs at the Legion' Legion of Honor, Lincoln Park, 100 34th Ave; 750-3658. Sat, 2-3:30pm. \$5-8 (free for under 12). "Doing and Viewing Art" presents "Ameri-can Art"; "Big Kids/Little Kids" presents Museum Architecture

Strybing Arboretum and Botanical Gardens Golden Gate Park, Ninth Ave at Lincoln; 661-1316. Mon-Fri, 8am-4:30pm; Sat-Sun and holidays, 10am-5pm. Free. The arboretum and gardens are located on 75 acres and boast a collection of 7,500 plants from

around the world.

Zeum 221 Fourth St; 777-2800. Sat-Sun,
11am-5pm. \$5-7. The model arts and technology center features activities for youths 8 to 18. Exhibits include "Making Music" and "Get Crafty."

Bay Area

Bay Area Discovery Museum 557 McReynolds, East Fort Baker near Sausahto; (415) 487-4398. Tues-Thurs, 9am-4pm; Fri-Sun, 10am-5pm. \$6-7. The museum hosts learning labs, exhibits, and activities for children. Camron-Stanford House 1428 Lakeside, Oakl: (510) 444-1876. Guided tours: Wed. 11-4pm; Sun, 1-5pm; and by appointment. \$1-4. This historic house museum, the last Victorian on Lake Merritt, boasts five re-

stored period rooms.

Chabot Space and Science Center 10000 Skyline, Oakl; (510) 336-7300. Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, noon-5pm. \$5.50-8. This state-of-the-art science and technology facility houses an observatory, a planetarium, and exhibits in a natural park setting.

Children's Fairyland USA 699 Bellevue, Oakl; (510) 452-2259. Fri-Sun, 10am-4pm. \$5. This 3-D storybook theme park features rides and entertainment for kids, including a play for children, The Blue Bird, (11am,

Lawrence Hall of Science Centennial Drive off Grizzly Peak Blvd, UC Berkeley, Berk; (510) 642-5132. Wed-Tues, 10am-5pm. \$3-7. The public science center features all types of exhibits, films, and activities for adults and children, including an exhibit about the eye and the brain, "Vision." Sat: two- and three-year-olds are encouraged to play with the animals in the museum's biology lab in "Cuddly, Soft, Furry Things and Friends," 10-10:50am, 11:10am-noon, \$8-25, reservations required.

'Lissen and Heart' La Peña Cultural Center, 3105 Shattuck, Berk; (510) 849-2568. Sat, 10:30am. \$3-4. The two artists juggle, unicycle, and perform stunts while discussing the environment.
Chris Molia Sanchez Concert Hall, 1220

Linda Mar, Pacifica; (415) 355-1882. Sat, 11am-noon. Free. The performer, best known for his work with Camper Van Beethoven, presents original music and old favorites for children and their families. Museum of Children's Art 560 Second St, Oakl; (510) 465-8770. Tues-Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, noon-5pm. Free. This museum features children's art exhibits, art classes, workshops, and other resources for kids, including a new exhibit showcasing children's book illustrators, "Then and Now." Oakland Museum of California 1000 Oak, Oakl; 1-888-OAK-MUSE. Tues-Thurs, Sat,

10am-5pm; Fri, 10am-9pm; Sun, noon-5pm. \$4-6 (free second Sun). Current exhibits include "Fired by Ideals: Arequipa Pottery" and "Elegant Fantasy: The Jewelry of Arline Fisch." "Secret World of the Forbidden City: Splendors from China's Imperial Palace" closes Wed/24. Sun: Author and historian Gray Brechin lectures on "San Francisco During the Arts and Crafts Movement,"

Oakland Zoo 9777 Golf Links, Oakl; (510) 632-9525. Daily, 10am-4pm. \$3.50-6.50. Parking \$3. More than 300 animals from around the world occupy 100 acres of land; check out the warthog exhibit.

everv weeki

Chinese music lessons Chinese Culture Center, 750 Kearney; 986-1822. Sun, 10am-noon, 1:30-3:30pm. \$15. Multi-instrumentalist Hong Wang leads these ongoing lessons in traditional Chinese music for beginners. Figure drawing session Spec's Twelve Adler Museum Cafe, 12 Saroyan; 391-3191. Sun, 1pm, \$12.50. This workshop sets live models of different sizes and sexes in a professional setting for artists of all skill levels.

'Friday Night Skate' Justin Herman Plaza, Embarcadero Center; 752-1967. Fr1, 8pm. Free. Join the Midnight Rollers every Friday night for a 12-mile skate through the city. Improve Your Public Speaking Skills' Parsons Brinckerhoff, 303 Second St, Ste 700N; 923-3257. Wed, 5:30pm. Free. Bechtel Toast masters offer weekly workshops on public

'Introduction to Buddhist Meditation' Old St. Mary's Church, Paulist Center Bookstore, Rm 5, 660 California; 585-9161. Mon, 12:30-1:15pm. Donation requested. Buddhist nun Kelsang Dragpa teaches this ongoing dropin class on philosophy and meditation. Lyric 123-127 Collingwood, 1-800-246-PRIDE. Various ongoing events; call for times and prices. This center holds many events for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, and questioning youths 23 and younger.

Mission trail mural walk Meets at Cafe

Vemce, 3325 24th St; 285-2287. Sat, 11am. \$2-5. View more than 50 murals in this

weekly walking tour sponsored by the Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center. 'Open Mural Studio' Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 2981 24th St; 285-2287. Thurs, 7:30pm. \$8. Participate in mural-painting or

mosaic-making projects.

Opera workshops Jon Sims Center for the erforming Arts, 1519 Mission; 554-0402. Thurs, 2-5pm, 6-9pm; Fri, 6-9pm; Sat, 10am-1pm, 2-5pm. Free, reservations required. Visiting composer and librettist Carla Lucero conducts a series of workshops in various vocal disciplines; call for details.

Precita Eyes' Mission mural walks Precita Eyes Mural Arts Center, 2981 24th St; 285-2287. Sat-Sun, 1:30pm. \$2-10. Tour more than 70 murals in the Mission during this

Quicktricks bridge club Metropolitan Com-munity Clurch, 150 Eureka; 621-4582. Tues, 7pm. \$5, second time free. This weekly

pm. 35, second time free. This weekly bridge club is open to players of all skill levels; partners are provided.

'SF Games' Cafe Commons, 3161 Mission; 679-3678. Fri, 7-10pm. Free. Everyone is invited to play games, including hearts, Scrabble, and dominoes — or you can bring in games — in this weekly group. bring in games — in this weekly group.
'Thursday Showcase' United Nations Plaza, Market at Hyde; 255-1923. Thurs, 7am. Free. This outside bazaar and flea market offers antiques, collectibles, crafts, and im-

Bay Area

port items

English as a second language for caregivers Bananas, 5232 Claremont, Oakl; (510) 658-7353. Tues, 6-8:30pm. Free. Through Tues/30. Davida Pugh leads this class for caregivers who wish to learn English speaking skills, stories, and songs

Parenting classes Bananas, 5232 Claremont, Oakl; (510) 658-7353. Mon, 7-8:30pm. Free. These year-round classes feature a new topic led by a facilitator and including group support.

sexual men meets for brunch before venturing off to a nude beach or trail. Support group for women coming out Pacific Center, 2712 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 548-8283. Tues, 6:30-8pm. Free. Women of all ages who are coming out as lesbians or questioning their sexuality are invited to join this

discussion and support group.
Turning Point Career Center orientations YWCA, 2600 Bancroft, Berk; (510) 848-6370. Tues, 1:30pm. Free. These orientations outlines the various job-seeking resources available to the public.

Art listings are compiled by Sarah Han. Because of space limitations, new art shows are listed the week they open (thereafter, shows are listed on a rotating basis), and we cannot list café exhibits. For information on how to submit listings to this section, see 8 Days a Week. Reviews are by Lindsey Westbrook and

Ansel Adams Center for Photography 655 Mission; 495-7000. Daily, 11am-5pm (first Thurs, 11am-8pm). \$2-5. "Beyond Bound aries: Contemporary Photography in Cali-

California Palace of the Legion of Honor Lincoln Park (near 34th Ave at Clement); 863-3330. Tues-Sun, 9:30am-5pm. \$7, \$5 seniors, \$4 for 12 to 17, free for 11 and under (free second Wed). Permanent exhibitions include a

museums

fornia." Photographs by 64 artists highlighting the center's relocation to San Francisco.

ond Wed). Permanent exhibitions include a survey of art from the Renaissance to the modern era. "The Figure in 20th-Century Artists' Books from the Reva and David Logan Collection," Through Feb 11. "Prints in Bloom." Twenty-five prints by artists celbrating flowers. Jan 27-April 30.

Cartoon Art Museum 814 Mission (at Fourth St); (415) CAR-TOON. Tues-Fri, 11am-5pm; Sat, 10am-5pm; Sun, 1-5pm. \$5, \$3 students and seniors, \$2 children. "Even More

Stranger than You." The works of Brian Continued on page 82

'Chinese Paper **Ephemera: Collected** and Transformed'

Through Feb. 10, Meridian Gallery

nna Wolf's extensive travels through China introduced her to the many forms of traditional Chinese paper art. As she journeyed, her collection grew to include everything from wood-block prints to a nine-foot-high sacrificial red paper robe. She was surprised to learn that in many cases these artworks were actually intended to be burned as part of their ritual use. But the idea also inspired her to use the pliable medium of paper as a starting point for works of her own. Some of the most remarkable materials she collected in China were not even "intentional" works of art: several old newspapers on which a secluded monk calligrapher had handwritten 300 famous Tang dynasty poems (these newspapers are on display in Meridian's north gallery). With a Xerox machine, scissors, and glue, Wolf incorporated them into several of her own works, which are on display in Meridian's south gallery. Her Tang Poem Panel is an installation of 70 xeroxed and folded paper units, each with a hidden poem inside. Four Pillows of Contemplation is a row of four bright yellow paper "pillows," each of which is decorated with newsprint poems and pierced with red incense sticks. For Hanging Book she took an entire deck of antique Chinese playing cards purchased at a Shanghai flea market and glued them together into a complicated accordion-book assemblage with red incense sticks poking out at



DMAGE TO THE ANCIENT CHINESE BOOKS (2001), BY ANNA WOL

all angles. Her works are partly based on her particular memories of China, such as the incense sticks she saw poking out of oranges wherever she went, and partly rooted in more metaphysical ideas, such as the dichotomies hardsoft, stick-pillow, and yin-yang. While you're there, take an envelope off the Chinese fortune tree, and it's yours to keep. Tues .- Sat., 11 a.m.-5:30 p.m., 545 Sutter, S.F. (415) 398-7229 (Lindsey Westbrook)



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www.bamofa.berketev.edo

118 Fourth Street San Rafael, CA

415-454-1222 www.rafaelffinicenter.org

701 Mission Street San Francisco, CA

415-978-2700 www.yerbabuenaarts.org

Museums

Biggs, Lloyd Dangle, Jason Jagel, Isabel Samaras, Chris Ware, and Steven Weissman. Through Feh 25.

Jewish Museum 121 Steuart; 543-8880. Jewish Museum 121 Steuart; 343-0000. Sun-Wed, Ham-Spm; Thurs, Hau-Spm. Call for prices. \$5, \$3 students and seniors (free first Mon; Thurs 6-8pm), free for 11 and under and members. "Light, Life, Libeskind: A Look at the New Jewish Museum

San Francisco." Through Sun/28. Museo Italo Americano Fort Mason Center, Bldg C, Marina at Laguna; 673-2200. Wed-Sun, noon-5pm (first Wed, noon-7pm). \$3, \$2 students and seniors; free for 11 and under and on first Wed. "Glass and Design." Anna Variant was the third with the Section 60 of the Venini curates this exhibit featuring 60 glass pieces from the Venini collection. Jan 24-

Museum of Craft and Folk Art Fort Mason Center, Bldg A; 775-0991. Tues-Fri, and Sun, 11am-5pm; Sat 10am=5pm. \$1-3. (free Sat,

10am-uoou; first Weds, 11am-7pm). "Rio Grande Traditions in Fiber and Clay." A collection of tapestries and pottery from the Río Grande Valley of New Mexico (recep-tion Wed/24, 5-9pm). Through March 24. San Francisco Museum of Modern Art 151 Thurd St; 357-4000. Fri-Tues, 11am-6pm; Thurs, 11am-9pm (closed Wed). \$9, \$6 seniors, \$5 students, 13 and under and members free (free first Tues; half-price Thurs, 6-9pm). "Native to the Land: Photography and the North American Indian, 1870-1930." An ex

hibit of rare photographs on the subject of Native Americans. Jan 27-June 12. "010101: Art in Technological Times." The "010101" Web site offers a lot to read and see, but it's not free of the technical and philosophical problems that continue to dog Net art. It requires a bit of effort to get into the groove of this site, which seems to be interested in creating new exhibition paradigms. Eden. Garden 1.0, a work by Entropy8Zuper! (Auriea Harvey and Michael Samyn), employs clunky, commercial-style 3-D renderings of the artists stumbling nude through bucolic computer-generated landscapes with a Noah's Ark's worth of animals. The creatures are somehow — it's unclear how exactly — unleashed by the user's God-like keyboard input. Thomson and Craighead's "e-poltergeist" introduces a Web-surfing ghost into your computer that does Yahoo searches for sad, suicidal keywords as a mournful sound-track of organ music emanates from your PC speakers. You can click on things, but the poltergeist invariably steers you back on a melancholic course. It's a crazy ride that makes you giggle while pondering the insid-iously lonely side of Web use. It'll have you yearning for a real-world museum viewing experience in no time. Through 2001 at www.sfmoma.org. (Glen Helfand)

San Francisco Performing Arts Library and Museum 401 Van Ness, Fourth fl; 255-4800. Tues, Thurs-Sat, 11am-5pm; Wed 11am-7pm "Ragtime: The Creation of a Musical. Through Sun/3. "Perpetual Motives: John Adams, Composer." A multimedia exhibit dedicated to the work of American new

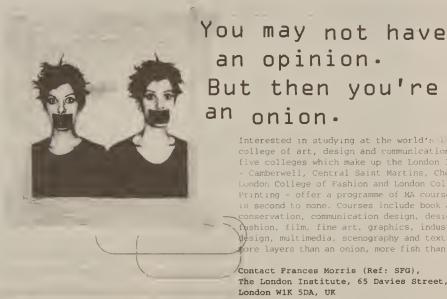
music composer including posters, programs, reviews, photos, and other memora-bilia. Through April 17.

Yerba Buena Center for the Arts 701 Mission; 978-ARTS, Tues-Wed and Sat-Sun, 11am-6pm; Thurs-Fri, 11am-8pm. \$6, \$3 seniors, students, and youths (free first Thurs, 5-8pm). "Tom Friedman, 00." A 10-year survey of works by the American artist. "Juvenilia." Drawings, sculpture, and photography created by established artists during their for-mative years. Both exhibits through Sun/28.

Bay Area

Museum of Anthropology 103 Kroeber Hall #3712, UC Berkeley; (510) 643-1193. Wed-Sun, 10am-4:30pm. "The Art of Research: Nelson Graburn and the Aesthetics of Inuit Sculpture." Collections of Inuit soapstone carvings. "Tzintzuntzan, Mexico: Photographs by George Foster." The UC Berketographs by George Foster. The UC Berke-ley professor emeritus of anthropology ex-hibits his photographs, collected from 1945 to 1999, "Sites Along the Nile: Rescuing An-cient Egypt." Exhibit includes nearly 600 ob-jects, including jewelry, pottery, and sculp-ture. "Yoruba Divination: Selections from the Collections of William and Berta Bascom." An exhibit focusing on the aims and techniques of Ifa divination. All exhibits through June 30.

Oakland Museum of California 1000 Oak, Oakl; (510) 238-2200. Wed-Sat, 10am-5pm (Through Tues/23, also Tues; first Fri, Fri/19-Sat/20, Tues/23-Wed/24, 10am-9pm); Sun, noon-5pm (Suu/21, noon-9pm). \$6, \$4 seniors and students. "Secret World of the



college of art, design and communications? The five colleges which make up the London Institute - Camberwell, Central Saint Martins, Chelsea, London College of Fashion and London College of

Printing - offer a programme of MA courses which is second to none. Courses include book arts, conservation, communication design, design studies, fashion, film, fine art, graphics, industrial sign, multimedia, scenography and textiles -More layers than an onion, more fish than a Hirst

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THE LONDON INSTITUTE

The CCAC Institute presents Mise-en-Scène: New LA Sculpture January 27-March 10, 2001 **Opening reception** Liz Craft Friday, January 26, 7-9 pm Evan **Holloway Curators talk** Jason Meadows Friday, January 26, 6-7 pm Jeff **Ono Artist talks** Paul **Sietsema** Tues, January 30, 7:30 pm, Jason Meadows Torbjörn **Vejvi** Tues, February 6, 7:30 pm, Liz Craft Tues, February 13, 7:30 pm, Jeff Ono Logan Galleries California College of Arts and Crafts 1111 Eighth Street @16th & Wisconsin, San Francisco 415.551.9210 www.ccac-art.edu/institute **Gallery hours** Mon, Wed, Thurs, Fri, Sat: 11 am-5 pm Tues: 11 am-9 pm **Closed Sunday**

'Seven Heavens'

Through Feb. 24, Haines Gallery

orking in an exquisitely refined technique reminiscent of the old masters, with references ranging from Hieronymus Particles and Scroll painters. masters, with references ranging from Hieronymus Bosch to Chinese scroll painters, Darren Waterston's paintings are redolent with sensual pleasure and delightful abundance. Seven Heavens is composed of seven large-scale (72 inches by 48 inches and 60 inches by 60 inches) and four smaller (36 inches by 24 inches) works. The layout of the show itself compliments the lyrical quality of these paintings; the combination of Waterston's use of color, composition, and arrangement provides a winsome ebb and flow. Orientalism has clearly informed Waterston's work. His paintings represent the Westerner's impression of the Far East that began in the 17th century: pagodas, pigtails, dragons, and mysterious women. However, there is more to his work than that. Waterston specializes in subtle and surprising juxtaposition of styles that create a unique reality filled with paradox. Birds, flowers, and swarms of insects are



meticulously painted against horizonless fields of color interrupted by black silhouettes of marshlands and pagodas, while nebulous webs drip and drape throughout. Companionship is a lush, scarlet red netherworld of long, supple vines that sprout fluffy fronds while shadows of naked fairies sit and muse on tufts of terrain. In cool contrast, the chocolate brown and mint green palette of Awakening is filled with surprises, including tiny caterpillars crawling across a tangle of threads as sprigs of salmon-colored flowers and bubbles drift by. The strong erotic quality that pervades these works is less subtle in works such as Rat and Phallus. In part, what we get in Waterston's work is that narrow space between known and unknown worlds that gets at a side of ourselves that is darker, more mischievous, and more playful than our everyday personas — a realm, more familiar to children than adults, where disbelief is entirely suspended. The world of Darren Waterston is exotic and strange, a never-never land where anything can and will happen. Tues.-Fri., 10:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m.; Sat., 10:30 a.m.-5 p.m., 49 Geary, Fifth floor, S.F. (415) 433-6879, www.hainesgallery.com. (Megan Wilson)

Admission is free

Forbidden City." Art objects from the Chinese Imperial Court during the Qing dynasty. Through Wed/24.

San Jose Museum of Art 110 South Market, Snn Jose. (408) 271-6840. Twes-Wed and Fri-Sun, 10am-5pm; Thurs, 10am-8pm. \$7, \$4 se-niors, students with ID, and children and youths 6-17, free for 5 and under (free first Thurs, half-price Thurs, 5-8pm). "The Eureka Fellowship Awards." The San Jose Museum of Art's current exhibition showcases new works by 14 Bay Area artists awarded Eureka Fellowships between 1999 and 2001. The works reflect a diverse range of cultural, stylistic, and historical influences as well as media. Todd Hido's haunting twilight pho tographs of residences devoid of human presence leave an inviting impression of suburban blight, while Joyce Hsu's Moo Ge Gae (1120SW-12) installation sets a pop playground of clear, plastic, adult-size hoppity horses against a wall of bubble-gum pink. Her romper room for grown-ups nods at our installation sets as a population of the set of the infantilized culture, with its ever increasing impatience and ine, ine, me attitude. On the other hand, the suspiciously sweet adolescent boys in Geoffrey Chadsey's drawings are per-fectly content to linger and wait. A suhtle creepy tension permeates these works and leaves one almost feeling the need to shower after viewing — for one reason or another. Through Feb 11. (Megan Wilson) UC Berkeley Art Museum 2625 Bancroft, Berk, (510) 642-0808. Wed, Fri-Sun, 11am-5pm, Thurs, 11am-9pm. \$6, \$4 seniors and youths. "Tacita Dean/MATRIX 189 Banewl." Dean used four cameras to track a solar eclipse of 1999. Through Sun/28. "The Mule Train: A Journey of Hope Remembered. Twenty-four photographic panels and mu-rals commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Southern Christian Leadership Confer ence's Poor People's Campaign. Through March 26.

galleries

Opening

Aquarius Records 1055 Valencia; 647-2272. Mon-Wed, 10am-9pm; Thurs-Sun, 10am-10pm. "Jeremiah Maddock: Selected Paintings and Drawings," an exhibit of works in watercolor, gouache, acrylics, pen, and pen-cil (reception Thurs/1, 6:30-8:30pm). Jan 29-April 22.

Braunstein/Quay 430 Clementina; 278-9850. Tites-Sat, 11am-5:30pm. "Home with New Lights," new paintings by Arthur Oka-mura. Through Sat/27. New work by Tom Bolles (reception Sat/3, 3:30-5:30pm). Jan

30-Feb 24. Canvas Cafe Gallery 1200 9th Ave; 504-0070. Mon-Wed, Ham-7pm; Thurs-Fri, Ham-9pm; Sat-Sun, 10am-9pm. Recent works by Anna Conti, Torri Lehman, Cynthia Hurtuhis, Carin Rehbinder, and Ellen Singletary (reception Thurs/25, 6-8pm). Jan 25-ongoing 848 Community Space 848 Divisadero; 701 1619. Call for hours. "Muse: The Art of Women Tattooists," two- and three-dimen-

Women Tattooists," (wo- and three-dimensional works by San Francisco women tattoo artists (reception Sun/28, 7-10pm). Jan 28-Feb 11. See 8 Days a Week, page 60. Hosfelt 430 Clementina; 495-5454. Ties-Sat, 11ain-5:30pm. "First Contact," paintings hy John Andrews; "Drawings," new drawings hy Wes Mills; "Star Cluster Drawings," ink drawings by Russell Crotty (all receptions Sat/27, 3-5pm). Jan 27-March 10.

Logan Galleries California College of Arts and

Crafts, 1111 8th St; 255-4628. Daily, 10an-6pm. "Mise en scène: New L.A. Sculpture," works by six Los Angeles-based artists (reception Fri/26, 7-9pm; curators' talk Fri/26, 6-7pm). Jan 27-March 10.

Melting Point Gallery 1340 Bryant; 861-0580.

Call for appt. Paintings by Fahrenheit (Thurs/25, 6-9pm). Thurs/25-Thurs/1.

San Francisco Center for the Book 300 De Haro; 565-0545. Mon-Fri, noon-5pm. "Book Arts 2001: A Student Odyssey," Cathy Michael Company of the product of t ranker curates this exhibition of the works by students at the San Francisco Center for the Book (reception Fri/2, 6-8pm). Jan 29-

San Francisco Public Library 100 Larkin; 557-4400. Mon, 10an-6pm; Tues-Thurs, 9am-8pm; Fri, noon-6pm; Snt, 10am-6pm; Sun, noon-5pm. "Living Colours Exhibit 2001: A Collection of Oil Paintings by Rhonel Roberts." Through Feb 26. "Hand Bookbinders of California Exhibition," a display of works by both amateur and professional bookbinders (reception Sat/20, 2-4pm in Main Lihrary, lower level, Jewett Gallery), Jan 20-March 16

San Francisco Women Artists Gallery 370 Hayes; 552-5FWA. Tues-Sat, Ham-6pm; Thurs, Ham-8pm; second and third Sun, 1-4:30pm. "Innovations," large-format works using various media. Through Sat/27. "Pure-ly Physical," an all media exhibit exploring the human body and erotica (reception Feb 8, 5:30-7:30pm). Jan 30-Feb 24.

Two of Hearts Studio 4147 19th St; 864-5551. Call for hours. "The Valentine Show," black and white photography by Rachel Lorenz, Larry Merkle, and JB Higgins, and paintings by William Ulrich, Daniel Phill, and Lady Lori Spencer-Churchill (reception Feb 9, 6-

Bay Area

Bedford Dean Lesher Regional Center for the Arts, 1601 Civic, Walnut Creek; (510) 295-1417. Tues-Sun, noon-Spm (also Thurs-Sat, 6-8pm). "Adrift," paintings, drawings, and sculpture dedicated to the subject of hoats (reception Wed/24, 5:30-7:30pm). Jan 24-

Pro Arts 461 Ninth St, Oakl; (510) 763-4361. Wed-Sim, 11am-5pm. "Consecrations: Spirits in the Time of AIDS," works by artists living with AIDS and/or commemorating loved ones with the illness (reception Thurs/25, 6-8pm). Through Feb 24.

Alliance Française 1345 Bush; 775-7755. Mon-Thurs, 9am-9pm; Fri, 9am-7pm; Sat, 9am-1pm. A collection of watercolor paint ings by Florence Arnold. Through Wed/31.

ArtHaus 1053 Bush, Ste 2; 922-8219. Call for appt. "Revelations," new works by various artists. Through March 31.

artists. Through March 31.

Aurobora Press 147 Nationia; 546-7880.

Mon-Sat, Ham-Spin. "Review 2000," recent prints by various artists. Through Wed/31.

Balazo/Mission Badlands Gallery 2811 Mission; 920-0896. Sat-Stin, 2-6pin. "Eat My Punkl," various works by Bill Daniels, Larry Wolfley, Marcus Da Anarchist, and Chubby valorists the patient and Pan-Arcanush. exploring the national and Bay Area punk rock scene in the '80s. Through Sun/28. John Berggruen 228 Grant; 781-4629. Mon-Fri, 9:30am-5:30pm; Sat, 10:30am-5pm. "A Decade of Sculpture: 1990-2000," works by Stephan Balkenhol; new sculptures by Rose-line Delisle. Both exhibits through Sat/27. City Art 828 Valencia; 970-9900. Wed-Thurs, Sun, noon-9pm; Fri-Snt, noon-midnight. "Political Art," artists express their political viewpoints through satire, propaganda, and documentation. Through Sun/28.
Clarion Alley Between 17th and 18th Sts and Mission and Valencia; 863-1860. Call for hours. For the past eight years the Clarion Alley Mural Project (CAMP) has provided an alternative space for artists to express ideas and imagery that might not be supported by other civic venues. Andrew Schoultz's untitled mural is amazing in its formal scope and the emotional charge it sparks through its sociopolitical vision. CAMP founders Aaron Noble and Rigo 00's Superhero Warehouse is a maximum-security facility for "additionally-abled" individuals. Check out the alley soon, since three buildings (including the two featuring the works by Schoultz, Noble, and Rigo) are slated for demolition in 2001 to make way for new condos. Ongoing. (Wilson)
Culture Cache 731 Florida; 642-2360. Call for

hours. "The Virgin's Kiss: New Paintings by Oliver Arms." Through Sun/28.

Ebert Gallery 49 Genry, Fourth fl; 296-8405. Tues-Sat, 11am-5pm. "the project rm." film stills by Cindy Sherman. Through Sat/27. Fort Haggis 3030 20th St, Unit B; 285-0321.
Call for hours. "B," paintings and drawings by Sacha Eckes. Through Mon/5.
Friday the Thirteenth West 331 Potrero; 863-2285. Thurs-Sat, 1-5pur. Recent paintings by limmula Sadduh. Limmula Sadduh.

Jimmy Lee Sudduth. Jimmy Lee Sudduth began painting with mud on boards almost 90 years ago, gradually incorporating addi-tives such as flour, coffee grounds, and house paint into his work. Sudduth's had minimal contact with the outside art world, and he's certainly never had any formal training, so it makes little sense to try to explain his paintings in the context of contem-

porary artists, or even "realism" in the arthistorical sense. He sticks to familiar, comfortable subjects: dogs, cats, buses, the faces of people he's seen, and even a very charm-ing mud-colored alligator with multicolored polka dots. His art can be spooky, or vision-ary, or cheerful, or inexplicable. But as an outsider artist, Sudduth creates his own artistic motivations and his own mythology Through Sat/27. (Westbrook)

Gallery Paule Anglim 14 Geary; 433-2710. Tites-Sat, 11-5:30pm. Works by Leo Bersamina, Laura Dufort, and Tomas Nakada.

Gallery Sanchez at Noe Valley Ministry 1021 Sanchez; 822-9581. Mon-Sat, 9am-5pm. "Windows to Inner and Outer Nature," oil paintings and watercolors by Sofia Carmi and Brent Bushnell (reception Feb 11, 3:30-5:30). Through Feb 27

Brian Gross Fine Art 49 Geary; 788-1050. Tues-Fri, 10:30nm-5:30pm; Sat, 11am-5pm. Recent paintings by Teo Gonzales. Through

Hackett-Freedman 250 Sutter, Fourth fl; 362-7152. Tires-Fri, 10:30am-5:30pm; Sat, Ham-5pm. Recent paintings by Corda Eby and John Evans; "Modern Masters, Works on Paper," by several artists. Both exhibits through Sat/27.

Haines 49 Geary; 397-8114. Tues-Sat, 10:30am-5:30pm (first Thurs until 7:30pm). "Imagiro in Bronze," an installation by Yoshitomo Saito. Through Feb 24. "Seven Heavens," works by Darren Waterson. See Critic's Choice.

Hang Gallery 556 Sutter; 434-4264. Mon-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, noon-5pm. "Mostly Stories," mixed-media paintings by Alex

Mitchell. Through Tues/30.

Jack Hanley Gallery 395 Valencia; 522-1623.
Wed-Sat, 11am-6pm. "On the Home
Ground," recent paintings by Kent Iwemyr.

Ground, recent paintings of sciences, and Through Sun/4.

Jenkins Johnson Gallery 464 Sutter; 677-0770. Tues-Sat, 10am-6pm; Sun, 11am-5pm. Fifth Anniversary Group Exhibition. Through Wed/31.

Through Wed/31. jennjoy 49 Geary, Fourth fl; 398-2040. Tues-Sat, 11am-5pm. "[climax]," the works of Sheila Pepe, Jessica Snow, Jonathan Ham-mer, Bill Durgin, Julian Hoeber, Amy Elling-

het, bill Durgin, Julian Floeber, Amy Ellingson, Jason Kleidosty, Twan Janssen, and Veronica Dejesus. Through Sat/27.

Michael Martin 251 Post; 217-0700. Mon-Sat, 11am-5:30pm. "Four," selected works by Linda Karshan, Ricardo Mazal, Rex Ray, and Sophie Smallhorn. Through Sat/27. Meridian 545 Sutter; 398-7229. Tues-Sat,

11am-5:30pm. "Chinese Paper Ephemera: Collected and Transformed," works by hook artist Anna Wolf. See Critic's Choice. Mission Cultural Center 2868 Mission; 821-1155. Tues-Fri, 11am-7pm; Mon and Sat, 11am-4pm." Mission: Possible," a group art installation by ex-offenders, victims, and survivors of violence, and community artists; "A Journey of Self Discovery," works by seniors at Washington High School on by seniors at Washington High School on the topic of gender roles. Through Wed/31.

111 Minna Gallery 111 Minna; 974-1719.

Call for hours. "Novo Deus 11," recent paintings by Doze Green. Through Wed/31.

Plaza Gallery Bank of America Center, 555

California; (510) 547-5455 or suzylock@earthlink.net. Mon-Fri, 8am-530pm "Adem Shawhatek in Color" and the color of the c

5:30pm. "Adam Shaw: Awash in Color," an exhibit of the artist's abstract paintings.

Through March 9.
Pond 214 Valencia; 437-9151. Wed-Sat, 1-7pm; also by appointment. Pond is a nonprofit community space and forum "dedi-cated to emerging and experimental artists," according to founders Marisa Jahn and Steve Shada. The space is still a bit rough, but it has a refreshing air of warmth and accessi-bility. Terry Mason's sculpture-and-digital-video installation invites the viewer to sit at an elevated school desk and to lower a giant walnut shell onto his or her head by rotating a lever. The experience is both odoriferous (a pungent resin smell permeates the enclosed space) and humbling, as one literally becomes the nut during a rough-and-tumble video ride through grass and gravel. The potential for an audience (passersby peering through the storefront window) to witness this bizarre image heightens the absurdity. Other mentionable works are a video work by Saiman Li and Permi Gill's photographs of a woman's hands washing a white sheet. This inaugural exhibition offers a promising glance at how the gallery and

the coming year might evolve. Through Wed/31. (Wilson)

Refusaion 20 Hawthorne; 546-0158. Tues-Sat, Non-topm. "Hometown Hero," video piece by Slater Bradley. The opening shot of Slater Bradley's new video piece, Dead Man's Point, shows a warning sign on the cliffs near Lincoln Park: "DEADMAN'S POINT: People have fallen to their death from this point." The rest of the piece is made up of a rapid succession of clips, some of which interpret the sign in a morhidly literal way: a hiker ignores the warning and runs around near the cliffs; a surfer wipes out in the crashing waves; beached whales writhe and struggle on the sand. In other clips, Bradley reframes the dead man's point as a place where decisions are made and events hang in uncertain balance. Bradley documents himself just after his girlfriend breaks up with him. It's a weirdly intense moment of self-examination and self-alienation. Plunged so deep into despair that he seems to have completely forgotten himself, his first thought ture the moment for posterity. The finished film has the feel and style of an amateur stu-dent production but the weight of an epic; perhaps it signifies a kind of dead man's turning point in the trajectory of Bradley's own artistic career. Through Sat/27. (Westbrook)

San Francisco Arts Commission Gallery 401 Van Ness; 554-6080. Wed-Sat, noon-5:30pm. "Canal," works by Liz Cohen, and "Made Lives," drawings by Sandra Wong. Through Sat/27. Paintings by Suzanna Mah Fong. Through Feb 18.

San Francisco Museum of Modern Art Rental Gallery Fort Mason, Bldg A, Marma at Laguna; 441-4777. Tues-Sat, 11:30am-5:30pm. The works of Kent Alexander, Machiko Kondo, and Seyed Alavi. Through

SF Photography Center 50 Scott; 554-9522. Tues-Thurs, 3-10pm; Fri-Snt, 11-5pm. "Creative Portraitures," photographs by Paul Burke, Ron Martorano, and Judith Williams Sandoval. Through Wed/31. Shapiro 760 Market, Ste 248; 398-6655.

Thes-Fr, 10:30am-5:30pm; Sat, 10:30am-5pm. Photographs by Henri Cartier-Bresson (reception Thurs/1, 5:30-7:30pm). Through Feb 24.

SomArts 934 Brannan; 552-2131. Tues-Sat, noon-4pm. "Making Time/Making Space," mixed-media monotypes by Barbara Abbott, Sandra Beard, Kate Curry, Yeung Ha, Ellen Kieffer, Valerie Magee, Judith Juntura Miller, Grace Purpura, and Merby Smullen. Through Sat/27.

Continued on page 84

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Southern Exposure 401 Alabama; 863-2141. Tues-Sat, 11am-5pm. "Re creation," mixed-media-works by Allison Shields; "correction," wall painting by Nestor Kruger; "Badminton," installation by Kenneth Tin-Kin Hung. All exhibits through Sat/3.

3A Garage Architecture Gallery 27 South Park; 543-3347. Tues-Fri, 11am-5:30pm; Sat, 11am-5pm. "Form: LA: Information Re-Transpar. FormuLA: Information Retrieval," sketches, digital drawings, and models by Los Angeles architects Kevin O'Donnell and Bryan Cantley. Through Sat/27.

Tomey-Tourell Fine Art 49 Geary; 989-6444. Tues-Fri, 11am-5:30pm; Sat, 11am-5pm. A two-person exhibition by Nathaniel Price and Ken Weathershy. Through Wed/31.

University of San Francisco Thacher Gallery, University of San Francisco Thacher Gallery 2130 Fidton; 393-8003. Mon-Fri, noon-5:30pm. "Pencil and Paper," drawings by Samuel Fleming Lewis (reception Thurs/1, 3-5pm). Through Feb 25.

Bay Area

Alameda Historical Museum Gallery 2324 Alameda, Alameda, (510) 521-1233. Wed-Fri, Sun, 1:30-4pm; Sat, 11am-4pm. "Col-lage of Life: One Woman's Perspective," paintings, mixed-media work, and sculp-ture by N. Teddy Goldsworthy-hanner. Through Sun/28.

Alice Arts Center 1428 Alice, Oakland; (510) 238-7221. Call for times. "Land of Masks, Temples and Dolls," works by Victoria Chow Pearman, Shahara Godfrey, and Dana Zed. Through Mon/29.

Bay Area Center for the Consolidated Arts 1010 Murray, Berk; (510) 486-0520. Thurs-Sat, 10am-6pm. New works by Jim

Melchert. Through Fri/26. Crucible 1036 Ashby, Berk; (510) 843-5511. Mon-Fri, noon-10pm; Sat-Sun, noon-6pm. "Catalyst: A Juried Exhibition of Crucible Artists," a viewing of art by students, past and present. Through

!hey! 4920b Telegraph, Oakl; (510) 428-2349. Tues-Sat, Ham-6pm; Sun, Ham-5pm. "Celebration," East Bay artists exhibit various works. Through Sat/3. Lizabeth Oliveria Gallery 942 Clay, Oakl; (510) 625-1350. Tues-Sat, 10:30am-6pm. "Divorced from Reality," a collection of photographs by Filipina art trio the Mail Order Brides. Through Sat/27.

150 Frank Ogawa Plaza Broadway (be-

tween 15th Ave and Telegraph), Oakl; (510) 654-3197. "Little Wing," street paintings by Philip Krohn. Through Thurs/1.

Pacific Art League of Palo Alto 668 Ramona, Palo Alto; (650) 321-3891. Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm; Sat, 10am-4pm. "Interiors," an exhibit of works by members of the Pacif-

exhibit of works by members of the Pacilic Art League. Through Fri/2.

Richmond Art Center 2540 Barrett, Richmond; (510) 620-6772. Tues-Fri, IDam-4:30pm; Sat, noon-4:30pm. "The Art of Living Black 2001," a group exhibition of 63 Bay Area black artists; "Intermedios: Paintings and Poetry." works by Gabriel Navars, "people consuming: the daily news," works by Mary V. Marsh; "Exhibit A," group exhibition by 42 Richmond Art Center's education department instruc-tors; "Work," Richmond Art Center staff exhibition (reception Sat/27, 3-6pm). Through March 17.

21 Grand 21 Grand, Oakl; (510) 444-7263. Thurs, noon-8pm; Fri-Sun, noon-6pm.
"Evidence of Being," new works by Tim Lundholm. Through Wed/3}.

stage

Stage listings are compiled by Sarah Han. Performance times may change; call venues to confirm. Reviewers are Robert Avila, Rita Felciano, and Brad Rosenstein. Dance com-mentator is Sima Belmar. See 8 Days a Week for information on how to submit items to the listings.

'Flying with Ana'

Fri/26-Sat/27, Randall Museum

an Francisco's Recreation and Park Department has sponsored the City Chorus since 1979, and the department's Randall Museum has been around since 1937. This year marks the genesis of a spankin' new program: the San Francisco Free Community Theater. Rec Department employee Glenn Havland, a longtime stage enthusi-



ast, took note that city-owned theater facilities, sets, and costumes were languishing unused. He convinced the Rec Department to allow his volunteer crew of actors, writers, stagehands, and other production folks to put these materials to work, and with no funding (or plans to ever charge admission to its shows), the barebones San Francisco Free Community Theater was born. Support this fledgling troupe by checking out its first performance, the

premiere of local astrophysicist-by-day, playwright-by-night Ignacio Mosquiera's drama, Flying with Ana. Khanh Doan heads a three-character cast in an exploration of what happens when a long-desired object of affection is finally attained. Fri., 8 p.m.; Sat., 2 p.m., 199 Museum Way, S.F. Free. (415) 522-1626. (Cheryl Eddy)

theater

Opening

Aunt Jack The Studio at Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th St; 861-5079. \$12. Opens Thurs/25, 8:30pm. Runs Thurs-Sat, 8:30pm. Through Sun/3. Laurel Hunter directs this cornedic solo show by Bill Smartt concerning the life of his late Aunt Jack in the Deep South. Café Depresso: Where Prozac, Caffeine and Black Leather Converge Exit Theater, 156
Eddy; 776-7427. \$15. Previews Fri/20, 8pm.
Opens Sat/27, 8pm. Runs Fri-Sat, 8pm.
Through March 3. Dawson Moore directs
this Tom Vegh comedy about four San Franciscans who come upon surprising events when two members of their depression-

therapy group disappear. Cherry Blizzard El Teatro de la Esperanza, 2940 16th St, Second fl; 255-2320. \$10. Opens 2940 1611 31, 3ectoral 11, 235-2320. 510. Optis Fri/26, 8pm. Runs Thurs-Sat, 8pm. Through Sat/3. Teatro Sabor presents a play about a young man from the Midwest who is in search of his sexual identity but ends up getsearch of his sexual identity but ends up get-ting involved in a lot more than he asked for. Personal Instrument New Conservatory The-atre Center, 25 Van Ness; 861-8972. \$17-20 (previews \$15). Previews Wed/24-Fri/26, 8pm. Opens Sat/27, 8pm. Runs Wed-Sat, 8pm. Through Feb 17. David Hanbury stars in his solo show, a "rock musical" about dif-ferent characters who subsequently own the same electric guitar. same electric guitar.

Triptych Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy; 673-3847.

\$12-18. Previews Thurs/25, 8pm. Opens Fri/26, 8pm. Runs Fri-Sat, 8pm. Through Sun/3. Laura Ellen Smith directs Michael Mace's black comedy about nine women in three separate but interconnecting stories that lead back to a robbery,

Bay Area

Fall Berkeley Repertory Theatre, 2025 Addison, Berk; (510) 647-2949. \$15.99-51. Opens Wed/24, 8pm. Runs Tues, Thurs-Sat, 8pm (also Thurs and Sat, 2pm; no show Fri/2); Wed and Snn, 7pm (also Sun, 2pm). Through March 11. Lisa Peterson directs Bridget Carpenter's coming-of-age comedy

about a sassy 14-year-old girl at a Catalina

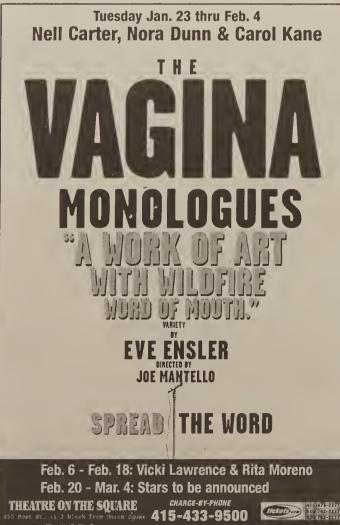
Tough! Berkeley City Club, 2315 Durant, Berk; (510) 843-4822. \$30-35 (previews \$26). Previews Fri/26-Sun/28; Wed/31, 8pm (also Sun/28, 2pm). Opens Thurs/1, 8pm. Runs Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm (also Sun/4, Feb 11, Feb 18, and Feb 25, 7pm). Through March 4. Aurora Theatre presents their production of a play by George F. Walker ahout the urban lives of three 19-year-olds.

Ongoing

Borscht Belt by the Bay A Traveling Jewish Theatre, 470 Florida; 399-1809, \$22.50 (Thurs, pay what you can). Thurs/25-Sat/27, 8pm; Sun/28, 2 and 7pm. A Traveling Jewish Theatre joins forces with Lisa Geduldig's Kung Pao Kosher Comedy for a fresh look at the Catskills tradition. Five Jewish comics — Sara l'elder, Betsy Salkind, Jeff Raz, Dan Rothenberg, and Geduldig — appear on an alternating schedule throughout the month. On the opening program, Felder most di-rectly invoked the spirit of Grossinger's, jug-gling to a tape of "Hava Nagila" performed by Mickey Katz. But things tended much more toward Bay than Borscht Belt as Geduldig and Felder both mined material (such as Jewish lesbian interpersonal politics) that would have been a shunda in the mountains. Salkind was the clear headliner on opening night, a young but veteran comic whose askew sardonic observations and dead-on animal imitations (particularly of a squirrel devouring matzo) provided the brightest moments. The performers some-times seem to be straining for a nightclub atmosphere, but this is an enjoyably whimsical slot-filler in ATJT's season. (Rosenstein) Gengary Glen Ross Geary Theater, 415 Geary; 749-2228. \$15-61. Tices-Sat, 8pm (also Wed and Sat, 2pm); Sun, 2pm (no show Sun/28). Starting Feb 7: Wed-Sat, 8pm (also Sat, 2pm); Sun, 2pm. Extended through Feb 11. Seventeen years after its premiere, David Mamet's play feels like an undeniable classic. ACT bites into this much revived work and

finds it as fresh as ever. Glengarry is first and foremost an actor's field day, and director





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\$10 per ticket will go to the V-Day Fund to support groups working to end violence against women.

Huckabay McAllister Dance

Thurs/25-Sun/28, Venue 9

uckabay McAllister Dance's intrepid choreographers Emma Lou Huckabay, Jenny McAllister, and Erin Mei-Ling Stuart are optimists. Calling their current program Tales in a Tiny Box is pushing it. Something along the lines of "tales in a minuscule boxlet" would have been a more

accurate description for a performance at the euphemistically "intimate" Venue 9. But in the past, spunk, a sense of humor, and solid craft have carried these veterans a long way. The program includes two rep pieces: Mary's Garden and an excerpt from Seconds. Premiering are excerpts from McAllister's The Wicked Garden, inspired by Queen Elizabeth I and Edward Gorey; Stuart's Double, performed with Blane Ashby to Bach; Nina, a solo choreographed by Huckabay to the music of Nina Simone; and Misbehavin', an audience-participation piece by Huckabay. 8 p.m., 252 Ninth St., S.F. \$10-\$15. (415) 289-2000. (Rita Felciano)



Les Waters has assembled a first-rate cast, getting wonderful work from Rod Gnapp as the endlessly excoriated office manager Williamson, James Carpenter as the ultimate real estate shark's mark Lingk, and Marco Barricelli in top form as the smooth operator Roma. Tony Amendola is touching as the aging, fading Levene, although he misses some of the character's bite. Nearly everyone runs into some shaky moments in rendering Mamet's precise verbal music, the two standout exceptions being John Apicella (Moss) and Matt Gottlieb (Aaronow), whose first-act restaurant scene is Mametian perfection. Waters deserves credit for firmly trusting the play's language and construc-tion, and although there are some missed moments, the evening generally flies.

Great Religions of America The Marsh, 1062 Valencia; 826-5750. \$15-17. Thurs-Sat, 8pin. Through Sat/3. Charlie Varon di-rects an extended run of Frank Wortham's play about sex, fashion, drugs, guns, vir-

gins, and rock stars. Harold's Death 11 Teatro 450, 449 Powell; 433-1172. \$15-20. Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7pn.
Through Feb 10. Working Women Festival
2001 presents Kate Moira Ryan's play about
a 17-year-old girl's discovery of her identity,
gender, and sexuality in the most unexpect-

Mamma Mia! Orpheum Theatre, 1192
Market; 512-7770. \$33-75. Tues-Sat, 8pm;
Snn, 7:30pm. Through Feb 17. 1 was amazed at how many of ABBA's 22 songs featured in this musical were completely ingrained in my consciousness. Catherine Johnson's book, centered on a wedding on a Greek is land, is an amusing trifle but often quite clever in working in these familiar songs. Given the high camp factor, what's surprising is just how effective these tunes are the-atrically, and under Phyllida Lloyd's playful direction the evening has a joyous, megawatt energy more typical of old-time musical comedy. (Rosenstein)

Mission Magic Mystery Tour Eureka Theater, 215 Jackson; 392-4400. \$24-30. Wed-Sun, 8pm (also Sun, 3pm; no evening show Feb 11). Extended through Feb 11. In this multicultural menudo of a city, the battle between old and new, rich and poor, main-stream and minority continues nowhere more dramatically than in the Mission. Who better to come to theatrical terms with such a complex world than our own Mis sion homeys Culture Clash? The Mission Magic Mystery Tour provides snapshots of residents ranging from political activists and transsexual prostitutes to low-riding vatos and dying theater artists. Herhert Siguenza, Ric Salinas, and Richard Montoya are tremendously gifted performers, but their often curiously undramatic material here gives them few opportunities to engage their substantial chops. The piece seems almost frantic to serve as witness, documenting a parade of Mission notables via either name-dropping or incarnation. But in taking on their home turf, the Clash seem to lost a lot of their comic objectivity, and the choppy results only fitfully capture the spirit of this haunted, compelling place. (Rosenstein)

Oil! - Chapter One: 'The Ride' Magic Theatre, Fort Mason Center, Bldg D; 437-6775. \$20-22. Wed/24-Sat/27, 8:30pm; Sun/28, 3pm. Muckraking novelist Upton Sinclair and his more than 90 literary works have largely faded from the public memory, but Word for Word is on a mission to change that. The company tackles the first chapter of Sinclair's 1927 novel Oil!, a sweeping examination of greed and power during the California oil boom of the '20s. "The Ride" is a teathlight polymora a planful with detailing of a trip taken by self-made oil magnate J. Arnold Ross (Robert Parsons), his son, Bunny (Molly Harvey), and their automobile, incarnated by Gendell Hernan dez (Engine), Stephanie Hunt (Speedometer), and a marvelous kinetic sculpture by Oliver DiCicco. Delia MacDougall's direction is shticky but inventive, and the per-formers seem to be having a ball. But for all the zippy drive of Sinclair's prose, not much really happens in this expository first chap-ter: for Oil!'s real trip, we gotta read the book. (Rosenstein)

Rhinoceros Theatre Rhinoceros, 2926 16th

St; 861-5079. \$15-20. Wed-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7pm (also Sun/28, Sun/4, 3pm). Through Feb 10. There's a sickness afoot: rhinoceritis. And it's become a regular epidemic. Symptoms include an uncontrollable penchant for razor scooters and cell phones. As a public health alert, Theatre Rhinoceros offers a boisterous staging of lonesco's alternately hilarious and horrifying tale of conformity run rampant. But more than the title makes this an appropriate match of subject and venue. In a timely stroke of self-reflection, director Colman Domingo sets the action in the Mission District of the present day, Theatre Rhino's backyard and the place where San Francisco's own metantorphosis has been most apparent and heated. The faithful rendering of lonesco's text is remarkably apt, while unconventional casting (several of the male and female roles are reversed, including that of the main character, Berenger, winningly played by Alexis Lezin) releases some dramatic effects that amuse and intrigue while never upstaging the play's themes. Lezin and P.A. Cooley head a boda-cious cast of budding perissodactyls. (Avila) Tallulah Curran Theatre, 445 Geary; 551-2000. \$33-57. Tues-Sat, 8pm (also Wed/24, Wed/31, Feb 7, 2pm); Sun, 2pm. Through Feb 11. Kathleen Turner stars in a solo show about flamboyant actress Tallulah Bankhead. See A&E review, page 48. Teatro ZinZanni: Love, Chaos, and Dinner Le Palais Nostalgique, Pier 27 and 29, Embarcadero at Battery; 438-2668. \$125-140.

The Vagina Monologues Alcazar Theater, 650 Geary; 433-9500. \$30-55. Tues-Thurs, 8pni; Fri-Sat, 8:30pin (also Sat, 5pm); Sun, 3 and 7pm. Through March 4. Nell Carter, Nora Dunn, and Carol Kane perform in

Wed-Sat, 6:30pm; Sun, 5:30pm (no performances Feb 11 or Feb 15). Open-ended.

This mix of "love, chaos, and dinner" in a

beautifully restored art nouveau cabaret

features a five-course meal served by a

madcap wait staff and close encounters

with talented dancers, comedians, singers,

Young Zombies in Love Next Stage, 1620 Gougli; (510)982-0433. \$8-15. Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 7pm. Through Feb 3. Emerald Rain Productions presents a comedic, pop-rock musical about the twisted relationship of two teenagers from Tombtown.

Bay Area

The Illusion Marin Theatre Company, Sali Leiberman Studio Theater, 397 Miller, Mill Valley; (415) 388-5208. \$10-20. Thurs/25-Sat/27, 8:15; Sun/28, 2:15 and 7:15pm. Finding a new home at Marin Theatre Company's studio theater, foolsFURY is reprising its San Francisco production of this wonderfully rich script freely adapted by Tony Kushner from Pierre Corneille's *L'illusion comique*. Coming to the cave of the magician Alcandre, the aging and ailing Pridamant seeks a reconciliation with his estranged son. Alcandre shows him a series of visions purporting to be his son's life, ensnaring Pridamant (and us) in a dense web of theatrical, romantic, and philosophical illusions. Kushner's language bubbles with faux 17th-century lushness, and the play's lively wit plumbs ever deeper into the true nature of love. Kaliopi Eleni, Corie Henninger, and David Mendelsohn handle the language and its subtexts beautifully, and director Ben Yalom finds a formalized physical grammar that befits the neoclassical form. The evening only occasionally finds its comic punch, and several performances falter, but this is a thoughtful rendering of a delightful piece of theater. (Rosenstein) Indiscretions Marin Theatre Company, 397

Miller, Mill Valley; (415) 388-5208. \$24-40.
Tues-Thurs, 7:30pm; Fri-Sat, 8pm (also Sat/3, 2pm); Sun, 2 and 7pm. Through Sun/4. Amy Glazer directs Jean Cocteau's dark comedic play about a dysfunctional family embroiled in incestuous and tragic relationships. See A&E review, page 48.

The Last Night of Ballyhoo Center for the Performing Arts, 500 Castro, Mountain View; (650) 903-6565. \$20-38. Tues, 7:30pm; Wed-Sat, 8pm (also Sat/27 and Sat/3, 2pm); Sun, 2pm (also Sun/28 and Sun/4, 7pm). Through Feb 11. In 1939 Hitler is on the march, but for the uppermiddle-class Jews of Atlanta the biggest concerns are the premiere of Gone with the Wind and Ballyhoo, an annual Jewsonly ball. Playwright Alfred Uhry (Driving Miss Daisy) again returns to his roots in amazingly conventional fashion: the play, which seems to have been written in 1939, is an amiable family comedy with dark undertones that could be vintage Kaufman and Hart. Uhry raises potent themes of assimilationist self-hatred but skates over them lightly: the real stakes here are whether two girls will find dates for the big party. The fine ensemble does excellent work, particularly Sheila O'Neill Ellis as an acerbic mother and David Silberman as a genial uncle, and Amy Gonzalez's uneven direction keeps things bopping. Uhry is an admirable craftsperson and the results are mildly diverting, but omewhere underneath all of this oldfashioned charm is a much tougher and more meaningful play yearning to come out. (Rosenstein)

dance

Ronald K. Brown/Evidence ODC Theater, 3153 17th St; 863-9834. Wed, 8pm. \$20. Also Sat/27, 8pm, Memorial Auditorium, Stanford University, Serra St, Stanford; (650) 725-2787. \$22-34. It is nothing short of a miracle that this well-known (on the East Coast) choreographer and his company, Evidence, are making an appearance in the Bay Area. Brown received institutional acclaim for his dance *Grace*, which he choreographed for Alvin Ailey American Dance Theater Though political and social issues find their places in his work, it's the visceral combination of modern and African dance forms that gives viewers something to think and feel about. (Belmar)

'First Migration' ODC Theater, 3153 17th St; 863-9834. Fri-Sat, 8pm. \$10-12. ODC Theater and ODC School add another to their roster of launching pads for emerging artists. Along with the freshmen of the *Pilot* program and the juniors of *Flight*, *First Mi*gration offers a space for the sophomores of the choreographic community to strut their stuff. For its inaugural performance, First Migration features choreographers Brenton Cheng, Kerstin Kussmaul, Rachael Lincoln, and Laura Marsh, all of whom have participated in the Pilot program. This is a good

group of strong dancers, experienced contact improvisors, and creative minds. Marsh offers Thrice Bound, an exploration of the roles of gender and religion featuring three dancers, a bible, a pair of scissors, and red stilletos. Cheng presents Safety, a duet for himself and Lincoln that is hardly a showcase for security. Close to Still is a duet by Lincoln for herself and Project Bandaloop colleague Mark Stuver. Finally, Kussmaul unleashes Suspending Silence 3, the last part in a series in which big boots and a baby grand meet in a toe to toe confrontation.

Joe Goode Performance Group Intersection for the Arts, 446 Valencia; 626-3311. Thurs-Sat, 8pm. \$9-15. Joe Goode Performance Group is such a hot ticket in these parts that their short, intimate run of *Problematic People* is already sold out. However, the folks over at Intersection want you to know that if you arrive at 7:30pm, sign the waiting list, AND some people with reservations do not show up hy 7:45pm, tickets will be released, and you might find yourself a lucky witness to Goode's work-in-the-raw. Problematic People is the lat-est segment of the Side Effects Series, a sort of practice ground for new ideas and a most sat isfying way to get to know Goode's wonderful wit and dynamic company. (Belmar)

Continued on page 86





-SF Bay Guardian

"don't make me look too psychotic surfaced as one of the big surprises of this year's San Francisco theater season." -SFstation

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calendar

Dance

Huckabay McAllister Dance Venue 9, 252 9th St; 289-2000. Thurs-Smr, 8pm. \$10-15. See Critic's Choice

Kunst-Stoff Jon Suns Center for the Performng Arts, 1519 Mission; 554-0402. Fri, 8pm (additional shows Feb 23 and March 23, 8pm). \$5-10 (no one turned away for lack of funds). See 8 Days a Week, page 60.
San Francisco Ballet War Memorial Opera

House, 301 Van Ness; 865-2000. Wed, 8pm. \$25-85. Join the country's oldest ballet company for their 68th Repertory Season Opening Night Gala. The program includes the premiere of Hans Van Manen's Black Cake; the pas de deux from Balanchine's Stars and Stripes; an excerpt of Yuri Possokhov's Magrittomania; Motoko Hirayama's Revelation; the premiere of Gerard Bohbot's Liebestod; and Balanchine's Symphony in C.

performance

Beast on the Moon' Eurcka Theatre 215 Jackson; 788-7469. Mon, 7:30pm. Donation. See 8 Days a Week, page 60.

'Burn American Dreams' Mission Cultural Center, 2868 Mission; 821-1155. Thurs-Sat, 8pm. \$5-10. See 8 Days a Week, page 60. Flectra' Venue 222, Phelan and Judson; 239-3132. Fri-Sat, 8pm; Sun, 2pm. \$5-10. City College of San Francisco presents Sophocles' classic play, directed by Lisa Busby and adapted by Frank McGuiness.

'Flying with Ana' Randall Theatre, 199 Muse-

um Way; 522-1626. Fri, 8pm; Sat, 2pm. Free See Critic's Choice.

'Girls Just Wanna Have Fun' Aunt Charlie's Lonnge, 133 Turk; 441-2922. Sat, 10pm and midnight. Free. Kristy Cruise hosts a drag

Goddess Perlman Exit Theatre, 156 Eddy, 267-5988. Fri-Sat, 8:30pm. \$15. Through Sat/3. Flamboyant comedian and singer Goddess Perlman performs songs with her band, O., including her trademark "Ode to Ally McBeal."

'Good Guy/Bad Guy' Lab, 2948 16th St; 864-8855. Thurs-Sat, 9:30pm. \$7-15. This "space western" by the multimedia artists of the RK Corral has high ambitions: to satirize not merely the oversimplified mythologies of the old West but also the black-and-white morality, obscene waste of resources, and voyeuristic violence that are its legacies. In the event, what we get is a fairly sophomoric hodgepodge of half-baked ideas. The best thing here is the series of photographic pro-jections that tells the bulk of the story, a handsomely produced progression of imagi-native images combining human actors with digitized landscapes and models, including some unsettling mutant cows. On-screen the performers look great, but when they appear

live and have to actually act, it's another story. Tria Connell's clever costumes add to the visual sheen, and the live music of Cheryl Leonard, John Blue, and Kenny Annis provides some punch, but overall this witless mishmash never adds up to much.

→ 'My Own Private Sukiprata' Theater of Yugen/Noh Space, 2840 Mariposa; 646-0868. Wed-Sun, 8pm. \$7-12. The 18 Mighty Mountain Warriors present the evolution of the mythical Asian nation of Sukiprata, sage and silly saga first staged as a workshop production last year to well-deserved ac-claim. In this significantly revised version, Grandpa takes grandson Tyler back in time to reveal the secret history and extraterrestrial origins of the Sukipratan people, the little-known masters of us all. On the way, every manner of Asian stereotype and pop cultural caricature receives a thorough spanking. European and U.S. imperialism don't fare any better. Like Culture Clash, the Mighty Mountain Warriors demonstrate more than a searing, spot-on read of American culture through a particular ethnic lens; they're a first-rate comedic troupe, full of versatility and verve. You don't have to be Sukipratan to find this race-y, spacey, and in-your-facey series of deft comedy sketches extremely funny. (Avila)

'3 for All' Bay Area Theatresports, Fort Mason Center, Bldg B, Third floor; 474-8935. Fri-Sat, 8pm. \$15. Rafe Chase, Stephen Kearin, and Tim Orr present an all-improv musical and theatrical performance to benefit the Theatresports Theater Upgrade Fund.

'Undermind Railroad' Omnicircus Theatre, 550 Natoma; 701-0686. Sat, 8:30pm. \$10. Through Feb 24. Eric Kenyon directs this surrealistic and comedic musical about "selfimposed slavery and desperate delusion" in contemporary industrial life.

Bay Area

'Blackballin" Open Arts Circle, 530 E Eighth St, Oakl; (510) 534-9529. Fri-Sun, 8pm. \$8-10. The Oakland Public Theater presents Rickerby Hind's play about professional

sports.

The Peking Acrobats Zellerbach Hall, Bancroft at Telegraph, UC Berkeley, Berk; (510) 642-9988. Sat, 8pm; Sun, 3pm; Mon, 10:30am and 1pm. \$3-30. See 8 Days a

Week, page 60.
'Reverse Thunder' South Berkeley Community Church, 1802 Fairview, Berk; (510) 464-1117. Fri-Sat, 8pm. \$5. Through Sat/3. Susannah Woods directs this play by poet, Diane Ackerman about a talented and in-

ventive 17th century nun.
'Waiting for Godot' La Val's Subterranean Theater, 1834 Euclid; (510) 234-6046. Fri-Sat, 8pns. \$8-12. Through Sat/3. Yoni Barkan directs Samuel Beckett's apocalyptic absurdist play.

comedy

Blue Bear Theater Fort Mason Center, Bldg D, Second fl; 885-5678. Sat, 8:30pm: Flash Family presents an improvisational comedy

Brainwash Cafe and Laundromat 1122 Folsom; 861-3663. Thurs, 8pm: open mic with host Tony Sparks, free. Buchanan Grill 3653 Buchanan; 563-2802.

Mon, 9pm: SNAFU Improv Comedy, \$2. Cobb's Comedy Club 2801 Leavenworth; 928-4320. Thurs-Sun, 8pm (also Fri-Sat, 10pm): Brian Copeland, Sabrina Matthews, and Tony Dijamco, \$10-15. Mon-Tues, 8pm: All-Pro Comedy Showcase, \$7.

Java Source 343 Clement; 541-5610. Tues,

9:30pm: Laffaccino Comedy Open Mike, with host Nick Leonard, free.

Luggage Store 1007 Market; 255-5971. Tues, 8pm: open mic with host Tony Sparks, \$1-3. One World Cafe 1799 McAllister; 776-9358. Fri, 7:30pm: open mic with host Corrine Petteys, free.

Paradise Lounge 308 11th St; 621-1911, Wed.

8pm: stand-up comedy, \$6.
Piaf's 1686 Market; 541-5610. Mon, 8pm: Gay Comedy Showcase, with host Karen Ripley, featuring Regina Stoops and Gretchen Rootes, \$5.

Punch Line 444 Battery; 397-4337. Wed-Sat, 9pm (also Fri-Sat, 11pm): Punch Line Comedy Allstars featuring Scott Silverman and lan Harris, \$8-15.

Rasselas 1534 Fillmore; 921-2051. Sat, 7pm: S.F. Comedy Beat, with comedy, improv, and

Bay Area

400 Club 400 29th Ave. Oakl: (510) 261-1108 Wed, 9pm: open mic with host Tony Sparks,

Jazz Performance Center 1801 Jefferson, Oakl; (510) 982-0490. Sat, 8:30pm: All Pro Comedy Showcase, \$5.

spoken word

Open mics take place almost every night in cafés throughout the Bay Area. If you want to perform, show up about half an hour before start time to put your name on the list. A dayby-day guide to word events and featured

Wednesday: Brainwash Cafe 1126 Folsom, 864-3842. Spoken Word Salon, with host Diamond Dave Whitaker, 8pm, free. Cody's Books 2454 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 845-7852. An anthology reading from the contributing writers of Grrrrr: A Collection of Poems About Bears, 7:30pm, \$2 donation. La Peña Cultural Center and Café 3105 Shattuck, Berk; (510) 849-2568. Café Poetry with host Richard Moore, featuring Marvin X and the Recovery theater group, 7:30pm, \$2. Noe Valley Library 451 Jersey; 695-5095. Read-

ings from Priscilla Lee and Yvonne Cannon, 30pm, free. Starry Plough 3101 Shattuck, Berk; (510) 841-2082. Poetry Slam with host Charles Ellik, 8:30pm, \$5.

Thursday: Black Dot Cafe 2330 International, Oakl, (510) 533-6629. Spoken word by Black Dot Artists Collective and open mic, 9:30pm, \$3. Café Firenze 2116 Shattuck, (510) 644-0155. Featuring Glenn Ingersoll, with host Louis Cuneo, 7pm, free. Dalva 3121 16th St; (925) 216-3592. Poetry Mission, hosted by luckydave, featuring open mic, 7pm, free. A Different Light Bookstore 489 Castro; 431-0891. Richard Labonte, Jaime Cortez, Doug Harrison, Eddie Moreno, Marshall Moore, Ian Philips, Thomas P. Roche, Sandip Roy, and Simon Sheppard read from Best Gay Erotica 2001, 7:30pm, free. Diesel, A Bookstore 5433 College, Oakl; (510) 653-9965. Bay Area poets, Alice Iones and Forrest Hamer read from their new books, 7:30pm, free. Mambo Mambo 1803 Webster, Oakl; (510) 832-9422. Poetry Slam and open mic hosted by Sonia

and Nisa, 8pm, free.

Friday: Cafe International 508 Haight; 552-7390. A night of readings by Elz Cuya and Robin Lovejoy followed by open mic, 8pm,

Saturday: Borders Books and Music 400 Post; 252-4655. Writerscorps Youth Poetry Slam League, 7pm, free. See 8 Days a Week,

Sunday: Cody's Books 2454 Telegraph, Berk; (510) 845-7852. Readings by Lynne Knight and Kathleen Lynch, 7:30pm, \$2 donation. Marcus Books 3900 Martin Luther King Jr. Way, Oakl; (510) 652-2344. Joyce Young hosts an afternoon of readings by Youth Speaks poets and students from Oakland schools, 3pm, free. Paradise Lounge 1501 Folsom, 621-1911. Readings by George Tirado and Clare Lewis, followed by open mic.

Monday: Notes from Underground 2399 Van Ness; 775-7638. Celebration of the Word, hosted by Jeanne Powell and featuring Craig Easley, 7:30pm, free.

Tuesday: Black Repertory Theater 3201 Adeline, Berk; (510) 652-2120. Third Eye Theatre presents poetry, spoken word, and comedy, 8pm, donations accepted. Rockin' Java 1821 Haight; 831-8842. Open Mind Open Mic with Carvell, 8pm (sign up at 7:30pm), free.



Film listings are edited by Cheryl Eddy. Reviewers are David Fear, Dina Gachman, Susan Gerhard, Dennis Harvey, Johnny Ray Huston, Robin Lapid, Patrick Macias, Anhoni Patel, Chuck Stephens, and Rob Taylor. See Movie Clock, page 97, for theater information.

Opening

Diary of a Chambermaid See "The 1-land of Jeanne Moreau", page 47. (1:38) Castro. George Washington See "Fontanel of youth", page 47. (1:30) Lumiere, Rafael, UC Theatre

Sugar and Spice Cheerleaders rob banks, and boy, do they wear the most ridiculous disguises this side of Point Break. (1:33)

The Wedding Planner See Movie Clock. (1:40) Jack London, Shattnek. Wu Yen Chinese New Year means Hong Kong flicks comin' atcha — including Johnny To's latest, a period costume come-dy starring Anita Mui, Sammi Cheng, and Cecilia Cheung. (2:02) Four Star.

Ongoing

All the Pretty Horses If John Wayne galloped into the sunset on the back of the Black Stallion reciting lines from The Shawshank Redemption to the tune of "Rawhide," the confusing result might look something like All the Pretty Horses. Directed by Billy Bob Thornton (and adapted from Cormac McCarthy's novel), this genre-schizo flick stars Matt Damon (complete with faux tan) and Henry Thomas (of

E.T. fame) as two thrill-seeking Texans who ride south across the Rio Grande, lured by dreams of becoming cowboys in Mexico. Set in the 1940s, Horses starts with promise, giving us plenty of humor, bucking broncos, shoot-'em-up gun fights, and a mysterious, forbidden love interest (Penelope Cruz). However, the film quickly shifts from Western to sappy romance to smits from western to sappy formatic to melodramatic man-against-all-odds survival story. If good-lookin' guys sporting tight jeans and 10-gallon hats on screen is all that you crave, get in line; if it's enlightenment you seek, look elsewhere. (1:52) Opera Plaza. (Sabrina Crawford) The Amati Girls With the release of her first feature film, writer-director Anne DeSalvo (Women Without Implants) seems destined

to return to the realm of the Lifetime Net-

ork for Women from whence she came This cloyingly heartwarming debut focuses on the relationship between four sisters (Sean Young, Dinah Manoff, Mercedes Ruehl, and Lily Knight) and the trials and tribulations of their close-knit Catholic, Italian American family. While there are a few funny exchanges within the large ensemble cast (which includes Paul Sorvino Mark Harmon, and Cloris Leachman), they are quickly buried under a pile of heavy-handed, tug-at-your-heartstrings cliches. In its desperate attempt to uplift audiences. The Amati Girls bombards viewers with sappy sentimentality and unbelievable changes of heart at every turn. Neglectful fathers and chauvinist husbands are re deemed, splitting couples are reunited, and everyone lives happily ever after in this cin-ematic Chicken Soup for the Soul. (1:31) 1000 Van Ness, UA Berkeley. (Crawford) **Antitrust** An ace computer programmer (Ryan Phillippe) recruited out of college by a Bill Gates doppelganger (Tim Robbins) begins to notice a few shady things back at

the corporate compound. Despite the warnings of Hot Waif No. 1 (Claire For-lani) and Hot Waif No. 2 (Rachael Leigh

Cook), our hero starts sticking his nose

he's being chased down dimly lit halls by thugs. It'd be appropriate if the first new

where it doesn't belong, and soon enough,

release of 2001, a year traditionally associ-ated with technological anxiety, were actu-ally an action thriller about information-age paranoia. But all the new economy trappings and that faux populist ending can't hide the fact that what Antitrust is re-ally about is photogenic pusses. Precious attention is paid to properly lighting pretty faces while those pesky suspense elements wither away amid tortoise-speed pacing and oh-so-convenient plot twists. The film's Silicon Valley subject matter may be torn from today's headlines, but the lack of both action and thrills amid actors striking poses suggests a modus operandi as old as the Hollywood hills. (1:43) Colma, Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, UA Berkeley. (Feat)

*Before Night Falls Doing everything in the biopic format that an old hack like Oliver Stone would not, Julian Schnabel transcends the genre and creates a dream work almost worthy of its inspiration, Cuban author Reinaldo Arenas. This is Schnahel's second artist-on-artist film piece (Basquiat being the successful first), and the painter-auteur has dotted the canvas with ellipses, surrealisms, poetry, and enough celebrity (Johnny Depp looks great in a dress, but Sean Penn could use some help with his Cuban-speaking-English ac-cent) to make you feel you've been pleas-

side, brings Arenas's humor and pathos to life. (1:13) *Lumiere, Shattuck*. (Gerhard) ■ Best in Show The latest nugget of deadpan brilliance from writer-actor-director Christopher Guest (Waiting for Guffman) is a faux behind-the-scenes dog-show documentary following the precompetition preparations of several contestants and their loyal companions: fish bait store owner Harlan Pepper (Guest) and his faithful bloodhound, Humbert; superyup-pie catalog connoisseurs Meg and Hilton Swan (Parker Posey, Michael Hitchcock) and their neurotic weimaraner; dentally

antly dosed. Spanish heartthrob Javier Bar-dem, as the film's beefed up, sexy version of Arenas, leads this Cuban time-trip. From

heady revolution to homosexual backlash,

the actor, whether behind bars or beach-

challenged Gerry Fleck (Eugene Levy), his Continued on page 88





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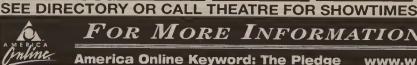
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wife, Cookie (Catherine O'Hara), and her wife, Cookie (Catherine O'Hara), and her terrier, Winky; salon owner Stefan (Michael McKean) and his partner's pam-pered pup, Miss Agnes; and returning Mayflower champion Rhapsody in White's ditsy gold-digging owner (Jennifer Col-lidge) and professional trainer (Jane Lynch). While Guest chooses an easy target in dog shows (a circuit that already seems a parody unto itself), it's the joy of watching gifted comic actors riff like jazz musicians that makes Show such a consistent hoot. This dead-on satire is a full breed ahove any competition. (1:30) Opera Plaza, Shattuck. (Fear)

Ongoing

calendar first runs, rep films, & movie clock

Billy Elliot The word "inspirational" has been haphazardly used to describe this feel-good Brit flick about a motherless 11-year-old boy (sensitively portrayed by Jamie Bell) who has to repress his burning desire to dance because he's living in a macho mining town. With his father and brother embroiled in a violent strike, Billy has plenty of space to sneak into an all-girl ballet class that's held at the same gym as his boxing lessons. Billy's instructor sees the potential in the dancing machine. His father and brother discover his ruse, and gender battles ensue. Director Stephen Daldry (Eight) means well, trying to show us the underdog thing from a fresh perspective, but about halfway into Billy Elliot, ou get the feeling that somebody, some where, is just trying too hard. But for kids, especially ones who are too paralyzed by ridicule to go after what they want, Billy Elliott might seem inspirational. (1:50) Opera Plaza, Shattuck. (Gachman)

Cast Away Cast Away, which throws Tom Hanks at the mercy of the elements, is like The Worst Case Scenario Survival Guide Movie: full of useful tips, offering vicarious airport-read thrills, but incapable of viewing experience as anything more than a series of logistical snafus to be solved. In the duel between ordinary man and extraordinary adventure, ordinary wins: Hanks and director Robert Zemeckis (Forrest Gump) have made another uplifting paean to the banality of good. The star plays Chuck Nolan, a rush-rush, hustle-bustle Federal Express systems manager who's missing out on quality time with the people he loves. After this point is hammered home and then some, Chuck gets a wake-up call: sole survivor of a plane crash, he's washed sahore on an uninhabited, well-off-the-maps South Pacific isle. He gets hairy, loses his love handles, and does a caveman dance around his first campfire — but there's nothing crazy, poetical, or large spirited about him; there isn't supposed to be. When Chuck finally gets back to civilization, his second priority (after reuniting with his girlfriend, Kelly, played by Helen Hunt) is to deliver the last remaining FedEx package, a notion of "decency" that offends because it reduces the big question to another empty, nondenominational sively impersonal practically hands itself Oscars, telling you what to feel, when to feel it, and why. It's the spiritual equivalent of nasal spray: one quick chemical toot and you've got the illusion of clarity. (2:30) Alexandria, Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Galaxy, Jack London, Kabuki, Metreon, Stonestown, UA Berkeley. (Harvey)
Chocolat A rather shameless slice of soccermom cinema, Chocolat tells the tale of a mysterious woman (Juliette Binoche) who

sets up a chocolate shop with her daughter in a small French village. Naturally, her bidos of the town's populace, which just irks those nasty, repressed villains (Carrie Anne Moss, Peter Storemore, the great Alfred Molina) to no end. Oh, and did I mention those lusty Irish gypsies? While the cinematography gorgeously captures every rich tone and truffle, and director Lasse Hallström (The Cider House Rules) puts the cast through their paces admirably, Chocolat's insistence on milking "oohs" and "aahs" at every predictable turn betrays a greater desire to please crowds than to make a good film. If watching endless quantities of the film's title being con-

sumed in a frenzy seems appealing, feel free to indulge; otherwise, the sickly-sweet

China films. So when is a Wong Fei-hung film not actually a Wong Feihung film? Answer: when it is the thunder-stealing Kickboxer (Thurs/25, Four Star, see Rep Clock for times). This 1993 actioner, featuring some awfully fine fighting and staging, is set in the traditional Wong stronghold of the Po Chi Lam company — but in this case, the master has conveniently gone away on business. In his place is the quite capable Yuen Biao (he of Prodigal Son and Jackie Chan's Lucky Stars films), playing a self-proclaimed "rascal" and an aspiring pupil of Wong. The guy means well, but he totally fails to notice that he's been set up to smuggle opium into Shanghai by a conspiracy of corrupt local businessmen and sniveling, dope-pushing white guys. When the Po Chi Lam crew is framed. Yuen selflessly takes the fall. He lays low for a while, finds minor romantic interest with a newspaper reporter, and charms the reporter's father (a tragically asthmatic local constable) in a bonkers game of oversize chess. By the third act, Yuen's done enough running, so he dons a dazzling pair of gold-plated "Wonder Shoes" and storms into the final reel ready for a showdown with the formidable Yuen Wah (who clutches his trademark paper fan à la Eastern Condors). Director Wu Ma, who also plays Yuen Biao's whimpering, toothy sidekick, made

some great stuff in the '70s (by all means check out his heavenly Deaf and Mute

Heroine), but here he's only trying to replicate the excitement of the Once upon a Time franchise with fewer resources. Yuen Biao lands many an impressive drop-

kick on the opposition, but (pardon the reference, Tsui Hark completists) Kickbox-

aftertaste of this trite melodrama is apt to leave one feeling in need of an insulin shot. (1:56) California, Grand Lake, Metreon, Orinda, Presidio. (Fear)

er seldom rises above station as a knockoff.

Cirque du Soleil: Journey of Man Synchronized mermaids swimming in 3-D? It's hard to imagine how this Imax adventure could go wrong, or maybe it isn't. But trust me: this boy's journey to manhood is like "Disney on Ice" on cotton candy. Hung lamely on a fishing wire-thin story line that has the boy-adolescent-young-and-fi-nally-old man tripping from landscape to landscape, meeting clowns, sprites, trapeze artists, and ... the Devil as he confronts the ageless profound questions that haunt humanity and bore the rest of us, this Montreal-based-human-circus movie doesn't even truly capture the bold gymnastics of a live Cirque du Soleil performance. If you

do have under-12s to entertain, I suggest a couple rounds of killer video games in-stead. (:38) Metreon Imax. (Gerhard) ◆Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon isn't just Ang Lee's first star-spangled martial-arts blockbuster; it's also the tenderest meditation on silence, sensibility, and the chasms that divide generations this intimate chamber dramatist has ever made. Chow Yun-fat plays Li Mu Bai, the top swords-man of the Wudan clan; his unrequited lover and fellow warrior, Yu Shu Lien, is played by former 007 sidekick-kick-ass and global supercop Michelle Yeoh. As the film begins, the would-be couple are standing on the verge of finally getting it on when their archnemesis, Jade Fox (the great Cheng Pei-pei, King Hu's formative female action star), appears from the darkened past with a venomous sprite named Jen at her side. Governor's daughter by day, secret adept of the graceful Wudan fighting style by night, Jen (Zhang Ziyi) only seems the faithful ward; inwardly she yearns for a life of freelance malfeasance and the companionship of a dreadlocked desert rascal named Lo (Chang Chen of Happy Together). Though ostensibly about Li Mu Bai's quest to retrieve his recently abducted Green Destiny, a mighty saber whose quietest quiver is enough to slice through palace walls, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon is, under no thick veil, a romance. At once postcard serene and pyrotechnically outrageous, the film is a contemplative mood piece that's filled with slam-bang popcorn, a spider inside a butterfly. To miss it is to miss an enchanted one-off, a film so rightfully sure of its own agility that it can stumble along a balustrade, drunk and fully blind, and somehow never miss a

Emery Bay, Empire, Galaxy, Kabuki, Metreou, Piedmont, Vogue. (Stephens)

CyberWorld The "first all-animated IMAX 3-D feature!" is in fact a compendium of mostly used (if newly gussied up for this format) goods, going back as far as a six-year-old Pet Shop Boys music clip. Elsewhere, you get the usual extra-large and depthed digital animation stuff — cruising fantasy landscapes, roller-coaster-style plunges beneath the sea, sci-fi scenery in plotless nuggets from studios around the world. The big attractions are reformatted sequences from the '98 feature Antz and a '95 Simpsons episode. They're fun, which cannot be said for the uninspired framing segments with plucky 'lil Lara Croftoid Phig (voiced by Jenna Elfman) guiding us through a cybermuseum of the future. Needless to say, there's plenty of stunning design on tap in this 48-minute featurette. But the odds-and-sods packaging never lets you forget that CyberWorld is basically a garage sale for digital eye-candy, its knicknacks thrown together for strictly commercial rather than conceptual reasons. (:48) Metreon linax. (Harvey) Double Take George Gallo's comedy-action flick stars Orlando Jones (of Mad TV and "make 7UP yours" fame) as a framed-formurder wealthy banker who takes the clothes and ID of an over-the-top, slightly out-of-whack wheeler and dealer played by Eddie Griffin (TV's Malcolni and Eddie). Hapless adventures ensue as the mismatched duo attempts to cross the Mexican border, encountering drug cartels, double agents, and emu ranchers along the way. Gallo uses the old bait and switch, keeping the audience in the game hy making them sort the good guys from the bad. However, not even the comedic chemistry between Jones and Griffin can rescue the often stilted dialogue. Despite the film's claim to "keep it real," many of the jokes fall far from the mark and smack of corpo rate boardroom discussions over what the kids are saying these days. (1:28) Colma, Emery Bay, Jack London, Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, UA Berkeley. (Crawford) Dude, Where's My Car? (1:23) Colma, 1000

step. (1:59) Act I and II, Century Plaza

The Emperor's New Groove I hope this doesn't make me a bad person, but the things that will probably scare the hell out of little kids are the things I like best about Disney's latest animated offering. We're not in Tim Burton territory here; nothing seriously dark, just the occasional bit of viciousness. This Disney film learned a thing or two from its cartoon competitors over

Continued on page 90





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HEAD OVER HEELS OPENS NATIONWIDE ON FEBRUA



film calendar

first runs, rep films & movie clock

Ongoing From page 88

at Warner Brothers, and at its best The Eniperor's New Groove recalls the manic anar-chy—and nastiness—of Bugs and com-pany. It's got the family-friendly Disney thing going on strong through, as a selfish emperor in pre-Columbian South America gets turned into a llama by a traitorous ad-visor. Aided by a selfless llama-herder (try saying that out loud without smiling), he regains his humanity, learns a vague about kindness, and encounters all kinds of really cool bats, bugs, jaguars, crocodiles, and icky things along the way. Actually, the kids will probably love it all; it's the grown-ups who will wince. (1:20) Colnia, Jack London, Metreon, 1000 Van

Ness. (Taylor)
The Family Man The Family Man is a Christmas Carol-esque tale about an emo-tionally frigid but terribly wealthy single financier (Nicolas Cage) who wakes up one Christmas morning to find himself living the life he would have had if he'd married his college sweetheart (Tea Leoni) and

moved to the suburbs to raise a family. Director Brett Ratner (Rush Hour) seems well aware that he's been given the opportunity to graduate from Chris Tucker comedies to some really top-shelf hack material, and he hits all the buttons like a pro. The film's only spark is found on the edges of Cage's performance as he contemplates the hor-rors of his new life in suburbia. By not masking Cage's initial yearning for the financial rewards and superficialities of his previous life, the film actually gets a little gritty. Of course, this being a holiday re-lease, it immediately lightens things up by making the kids do something precious. I suspect the people behind *The Family Man* have more in common with Cage the corporate jerk than with Cage the husband and father, which might account for the simplistic, patronizing depiction of subur-ban life. (2:04) Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness. (Taylor)
Finding Forrester With his Psycho, Gus Van

Sant proved that he could expertly mimic the structure, if not the substance, of anoththe structure, it not the substance, of about er director's film. Now, with Finding For-rester, he shows he can do the same thing with his own work. Finding Forrester isn't a terrible movie, but it's a baffling choice for Van Sant, since it's almost an exact copy of Good Will Hunting. This time, the working-class prodigy is a 16-year-old literary wun-

derkind named Jamal Wallace. Sean Connerry plays his wise but damaged mentor, a Pulitzer prize-winning novelist who be-came a recluse following the death of his brother. As in Good Will Hunting, opportunities abound for the young autodidact to put snobs in their place with his prodigious knowledge. Robert Brown plays Jamal with soulful charisma, but his character would be more believable if he weren't perfect in every way: he's a charming and self-pos-sessed teenager, an amazing athlete, and a blazingly brilliant writer who apparently knows the entire English canon by heart. To further emphasize the Good Will connection, Matt Damon makes a cameo — but then, bizarrely, so does Joey Buttafuoco. (2:27) Colma, Jack London, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, Shattuck. (Michelle Goldberg) Genghis Khan (1:45) Four Star.

The Gift You won't see anything terribly original in Sam Raimi's latest. Though Billy Bob Thornton and Tom Epperson (who previously collaborated on One False Move) wrote their script years ago, the plot echoes a number of recent releases, including What Lies Beneath and Stir of Echoes. Psychic Annie Wilson (Cate Blanchett, strikingly believable as a single mom in pleated stretch pants) does "readin's" for the colorful characters who populate sleepy Brixton, Ga. When a local

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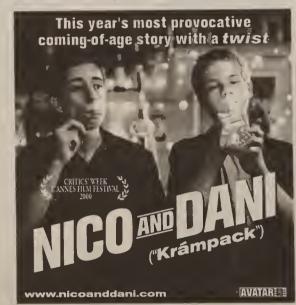
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FEBRUARY 2



STARTS FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 9

rich bitch (Katie Holmes) goes missing, spooky stuff of the unearthly variety begins to infiltrate Annie's world. Chances are you'll figure out the identity of *The Gift*'s mystery villain long before any of the characters do, but the by-the-genrehandbook story line (including déjà vu moments like a waterlogged ghost who won't rest until justice is done ... paging Michelle Pfeiffer ...) is elevated by Raimi's expert ability to command the setting (pickup trucks, feathered hair, honey-dipped Southern twangs) and the atmosphere (oozing fog and Spanish moss, eerie fiddlin' on the soundtrack). (1:52) Califorma, Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Kabuki, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness. (Eddy)

◆The House of Mirth A gorgeous yet challenging movie shrouded in mystery, black lace, and killing politesse, Terence Davies's adaptation of *The House of Mirth* is more cheerless than Edith Wharton's 1905 fiction. Its social satire, while often funny, anthis is a major downer. But there's also something grand about Davies's design that lends Mirth an unusual weight, Gillian Anderson plays the orphaned Lily Bart, who moves in the uppermost reaches of New York society, where it is to be expected that a marriageable one such as herself would try to finagle the best match (economically, statuswise, with a nominal nod to "love") possible, but even more that she not appear possine, durever more that site an appear to be doing so. Davies's screenplay makes composites of a few characters to good ef-fect and shaves the excess melodrama from Wharton's final arm-twisting of cruel fate. But his *House of Mirth* is hardly up-to-themoment sexy and exciting; he digs so deeply into a wildly alien culture of surfaces — one in which absolutely no one says what he or she means and beautiful manners are meant to be exclusive rather than welcoming — that the film itself seems preserved in amher, a liquid in which we slowly drown right along with Lily. X-Filer Anderson at first seems all wrong here, but as Lily self-destructs, the actor rises to Davies's less-is-more challenge, rises to Davies ress-institute Challenge, conveying all degrees of panic with a restraint that's eventually wrenching. (2:15) Embarcadero, Shattuck. (Harvey) Maléna (1:44) Albany, Clay.

Megacities Lacking a cohesive structure or unifying theme, yet graced with stunning cinematography, Megacities is better suited to heavily art-directed coffee-table format than hard-hitting documentary. Michael Glawogger has apparently dropped in on Clawogger has apparently dropped in on the megacities in question — Bombay, Mexico City, Moscow, and New York — in a voyeuristic search for squalor. An Indian man who sifts pigments all day, drenched in blue, green, red, and yellow powder, reveals his unhappiness with his futile life. In a particularly harrowing yet visually arresting moment, a single mother-prostitute struts her stuff for an all-male audience that is given free rein with her body. But these episodic scenes are drained of their power as we move to staged meetings with New York and Moscow street urchins. Glawogger's subject choices seem arbitrary and his treatment superficial, ultimately causing us to question whether he has any interest at all in the humanity of those he photographed. Apparently he is in full agreement with novelist William T. Vollman: the poor are damned not only to a life without shelter or security but also to a life without soul. (1:30) Fine Arts Cinema, Roxie. (Caroline Libresco)

Michael Jordan to the Max Set around the Chicago Bulls' 1998 championship run, Michael Jordan to the Max is a must-see for any basketball enthusiast. Everybody else might as well stay home or check out one of the better Imax flicks, like Everest, instead. Packed with highlights from Jordan's celebrated career, this film has a great deal of nostalgic appeal, but come on, he's only been retired for two years, and he's not even dead yet. Added to the impressive footage is narration by Laurence Fishburne, which should make the film seem like a winner. Yet Michael Jordan to the Max can't escape the "you can achieve whatever you put your mind to" sentimentality that is a tired component of nearly every sports movie ever made. Why not just fill the biggest screen in the world with an hour of foxy Jordan's finest moments?

Until such a film is made, this will have to (46) Metreon Imax. (Jason Rezaian)
 Miss Congeniality It's certainly got a ridiculous, cheesy premise — "ugly," pratfallprone FBI agent (Sandra Bullock) gets beau-tified so she can go undercover at the bomb-threatened Miss United States Pageant — but somehow the agreeable Miss Congeniahty
manages something few contemporary Hollywood comedies are capable of: it's actually funny. Bullock, who also produced, obviously had a hand in the casting; for a feel-good flick by a little-known director (Donald Petric, of Grunipy Old Men fame), Miss Con-

geniality boasts a relatively big-name supporting crew, including Michael Caine, Can-dice Bergen, William Shatner, and Benjamin Bratt, all of whom deliver with enthusiasm. But Bullock's clearly the star here, and, after a string of weak career choices (uh, 28 Days?), she's wisely chosen a movie that spotlights both her Speed-era girl-next-door persona and her previously undertapped proficiency at goofy physical comedy. (1:50) Colma, Galaxy, Kabuki, Metreon, Shattuck, Ston-estown. (Eddy)

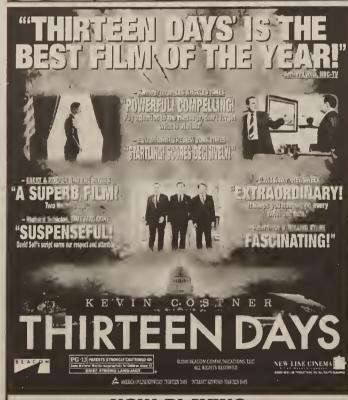
O Brother, Where Art Thou? At heart, O Brother, Where Art Thou? (which the

credits tell us is based upon Homer's Odyssey) is a feel-good movie — prob-lematic, because the Coen brothers have never been noted for their feelings. Still, if one must wear (in)sincerity on one's sleeve, may the shirt always look this beautiful: O Brother is Americana Gothic, beautitus: O Brother is Americana Gottic, snow-globe style. Fast-talking Ulysses Everett McGill (George Clooney) convinces shacklemates Pete (John Turturro) and Delmar (an inspired Tim Blake Nelson), to escape with him, claiming there's buried treasure he'll divvy between them; the ensuing wacky adventures are rife

with fat-cat good ole boy politicians, fu-ture blues legends, evangelicals, shoot-first-say-hey-later types, the pictorially impoverished, and the grotesquely flush. The Coens put Clooney's callow handthe Coens put Clooney's callow hand-someness to good use, but we can't buy this paragon of insincerity's secret long-ing: to be reunited with his wife (Holly Hunter, perfectly cast yet underused). Likewise, O Brother blows inspirational hot air in a thudding anticlimax that suggests that the good people of mid-1930s Mississippi will not stand for blatant

Continued on page 92





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racism, corruption, and injustice. Oh really? So much here is enjoyable and impressive that it seems a shame to notice how half empty the glass is in the end. But the Coens dare you not to: O Brother insists on your acknowledging faith, fam-ily, and love as fundamental truths when ily, and love as fundamental fruths when it's quite obvious that their representations are, uh, pretty inorganic. It's all aes thetically delightful, occasionally near rapturous. But Ethan and Joel C. trap themselves by going for sentimental effects you know they themselves don't helieve for a second. (1:47) Bridge, Shat-

tuck. (Harvey)

The Pledge Actor-and-sometimes-auteur Sean Penn (The Crossing Guard) presents another small-town tale from the dark side, this one centering around a retired cop (Jack Nicholson) whose promise to find a child's killer slowly builds into a consuming obsession. Penn's fascination with the rhythms of realism and the work ing class find an able-bodied ally here in a surprisingly subdued Nicholson. Free of the histrionics and mugging that color the patented "Jack" persona, Nicholson's man-on-the-verge performance is a near tour de force of underplaying that keeps Penn's flights of existential fancy grounded. Penn's preference for disembodied shots of nature and the film's focus on the character's psychic pain may frustrate viewers – but thanks to its star, The Pledge comes within spitting distance of those other houses that Jack built to near-perfection in the '70s. (2:04) Alexandria, Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Jack London, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, Shattuck. (Fear)

Ness, Shattuck. (Fear)

Quills This carefully crafted movie version of Doug Wright's play (Wright also wrote the screenplay) directed by Philip Kaufman (The Unbearable Lightness of Being, Henry and June), makes square one the Marquis de Sade (Geoffrey Rush)—the man, the myth, the lech—and spirals outward. Quills explores how one rather extraordinary person affects the lives of those who, out of curiosity or revulsion, are drawn to his writings and subsequently are drawn to his writings and suhsequently become entangled in the last years of his life, when de Sade was detained in the Charenton insane asylum under the care of one Abbé de Coulmier (Joaquin Phoenix). When righteous bastard Dr. Royer-Collard (Michael Caine) arrives to oversee the in-stitution, he prevents the Marquis — and his partner-in-crime, a chambermaid (Kate Winslet) — from smuggling any more prose to his publisher. When the Marquis is completely denied the ability to write, hell breaks loose for all the characters, not just the frustrated prisoner. This being de Sade's story, Kaufman takes an appropriately sadistic-meets-cheeky approach: plenty of visceral flourishes, double entendre—laden dialogue, and a naughty sense of humor. A vicious climax bleakly underscores the dangerous side of unchecked urges, but a surprisingly strong statement about the importance of art and

Freedom of expression emerges. (2:04)

Embarcadero. (Eddy)

Requiem for a Dream Director Darren

Aronofsky (Pi) and Hubert Selby Jr. (author of the 1978 novel from which the film is adapted) are a perfect match. Set in a purposely vague, decrepit Coney Island purposty vaga, detrefit coney is and epoch somewhere between the Me Decade and Now, Requiem for a Dream is more of a dirge, if a dirge could St. Vitus—dance at 200 beats per minute. Pathetic widow Sara Goldfarb (Ellen Burstyn) has no real life of her own, unless being a couch potato counts; faint hopes that only child Harry Gunts; faint hopes that only child Harry (Jared Leto) will ever fly right are dashed each time he pawns her boob tube for smack cash. Harry has a "business partner" in lifelong friend Tyrone (Marlon Wayans) and a great girlfriend in disenfranchised rich chick Marion (Jennifer Connelly). The boys are as eager to swim upstream as she is to drift downward. Setting up a heroin-dealership shop — just until they make one big score, of course — seems like a good idea until a supply shortage occurs. Meanwhile, Sara gets hooked on diet pills. This diary of an increasingly mad hausfrau parallels the younger trio's descent into variably delusional, panicked, exploited,

and life-threatened personal hells. Never blinking or flinching (that's your joh), Requiem takes us right along with the characquem takes us right along with the characters, turning physical and psychological deterioration into a clinical, merciless film aesthetic. (1:42) Opera Plaza. (Harvey) Restless This film rightfully hoasts of firsts: first United States—China coproduction, first English-language film set in continuous and positive for the control of th temporary Beijing, first time (in a movie or otherwise) anyone was allowed to skateboard in the Forhidden City. American writer-director Jule Gilfillan, who attended both USC and the Beijing Film Academy, not surprisingly focuses her film on twentysomethings living in Beijing — but the film spreads itself thin trying to keep up with two barely intertwined plotlines.
White girl and three-year Beijing resident
Leah Quinn (Catherine Kellner) seeks revenge on her cheatin' (white) boyfriend, venge on her cheatin' (white) boylriend, only to meet a Chinese guy who really floats her boat — until he accuses her of making China her "personal Disneyland." Though Leah is the main character (complete with weepy chick rock on the sound-track whenever she's upset), the other half of Restless, which follows Chinese American Culifornia dude Richard (David Wo). can California dude Richard (David Wu). on a reluctant first trip to Asia, is the more involving — it's too bad Gilfillan couldn't have narrowed her focus and made this story the whole of the film. Still, Restless's cross-cultural accomplishments are admirable, and the film offers Westerners an uncommon glimpse into the sights and sounds of contemporary Beijing. (1:38)
Four Star. (Eddy)

Save the Last Dance Though it sometimes come off as "The Real World, by Judy Blume," Save the Last Dance has likable qualities, what with its cool dance interludes and themes more serious than, say, "Dude, where's my car?" Onetime ballerina Sara (Julia Stiles) loses her mother in a car accident and leaves suburbia to live with her estranged father in inner-city Chicago. her estranged lather in inner-city Chicago. As the new (i.e., white) girl at a predominantly black high school, Sara hefriends the sympathetic Nikki (Bianca Lawson), who introduces her to hip-hop at the local dance club; her new pal's brother, Derek (Sean Patrick Thomas), teaches her a few moves on and off the floor. Director Thomas Carter's earnest efforts to tackle all facets of interracial relations propels Lag. facets of interracial relations propels Last Dance to a cut above the after-school special. The final product may be a bit over-simplified, but it's not dumhed down, and simplified, but it is not dumhed down, and there's convincing chemistry between Stiles and Thomas, who give heartfelt performances. (1:53) Alexandria, Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Empire, Galaxy, Jack London, Kabuki, Metreon, UA Berkeley. (Lapid)

Shadow of the Vampire What if the actor cast as Count Orlock in Nosferatu was a real vampire? Director E. Elias Merhige rounds up a formidable cast, including John Malkovich (as eccentric director F.W. Murnau), Willem Dafoe (as actorbloodsucker Max Schreck), Udo Kier (as the befuddled producer), and Eddie Izzard (as Nosferatu's leading man) to spin this tale of method, mayhem, and silent film-making. Shadow starts off with great promise: the mise-en-scène is exquisite, the engaging movie-within-a-movie scenes yield eerie reenactments of the 1921 original, and Dafoe cuts a menacing, lascivious figure as the pointy-eared snag-gletooth. But once Shreck starts claiming gletooth. But once Shreck starts claiming necks, Shadow's pacing and script (we now pause for morphine addiction) take a turn for the worse, the actors begin to grate, and the "what if" plot — which seemed pretty damn cool on paper — buckles under the weight of high concept. (1:29) California, Century Plaza, Cinema 21,

California, Century Plaza, Cinema 21, Piedmont. (Eddy)

Snatch A gargantuan diamond, stolen by phony rabbis, eventually lands in the hands of a psychotic gun dealer named Boris the Blade. The rock then becomes a pawn in a standoff between a boxing promoter, his gypsy ringer, and a bookie named Brick Top who enjoys feeding his enemies to pigs. But wait, there's more: like the squeaking dog, five-second transatlantic flights, and scenery-chewing Hollywood stars that pop up along the way. Several actors from director Guy Ritchie's similar Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels also appear, including the Smoking Barrels also appear, including the

brutishly cute (you can't deny it) former British footballer Vinnie Jones. Like that film, Snatch exudes a charming kind of coolness: ferocious, hyperverbal, decided-ly masculine, and so overdone it's harmless. (1:43) Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Jack London, Metreon, Metro, Oaks, 1000 Van

State and Main "The new comedy from David Mamet" — a notion that's maybe the best, if least intended, joke here — is like Spam that thinks it's prosciutto. Mamet takes a very hoary idea — a film crew of the usual big-league egos 'n' nitwits descends upon a small town for location shooting, upending the local equi-librium as its own internal relations deteriorate — and gets very little fresh satirical mileage from it. The moderately amusing story benefits from performers (the large cast includes Alec Baldwin, Sarah Jessica Parker, William H. Macy, and Philip Sey-mour Hoffman) who make the material seem brighter than it is, but Mamet is no natural comic writer. His humor is just condescending, occasionally ohnoxious (note the unironic laugh lines reffing "dykes and dogs," "faggy" stuff, and Parker's much mentioned "tits"), and dependent on the black-and white contrast between stereotyped El Lay slicksters and a postcard-perfect 1940s provincial America that really no longer exists. Compared with the myriad more savage-incisive biz satires recent years have given us, State and Main

comes off as just-adequate entertainment,

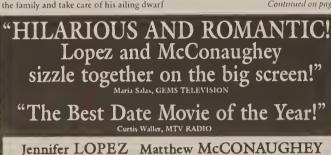
Thirteen Days Despite the presence of nominal star Kevin Costner (as JFK presidential aide Kenny O'Donnell), the actual focus of Roger Donaldson's film about the 1962 Cuban missile crisis is on the Kennedy brothers, cabinet members, military offi-cials, and myriad identical-looking old white guys who all duke it out to see whose policies and strategies prevail in response to the threat of Russian nuclear missiles in Cuba. To the filmmaker's credit, what suspense he loses to the viewer's knowledge of how it ends is made up for with lively recreations of the Cuban blockade, spy-plane flyovers, and Adlai Stevenson's United Nations showdown with the Russians, and hy allowing the innate, sweaty-armpitted, rolled-up-shirtsleeved tension of the thing to play itself out. The true stars here are Bruce Greenwood and Steven Culp, as JFK and RFK respectively. Instead of mimicking, Greenwood and Culp re-greate their historical characters on their own terms, the way an actor would with Hamlet or any other familiar role — resulting in two un-expectedly exciting performances. (2:18) Colma, Emery Bay, Grand Lake, Oaks, 1000 Van Ness. (Taylor)

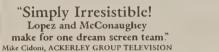
◆A Time for Drunken Horses Into a national cinema filled with allegorical children's stories that may have mythic layers

far from the exemplar of sophisticated fun it poses as. (1:42) Albany, Embarcadero, Piedmont. (Harvey)

attached but often lack that painful punch to the gut, Bahman Ghohadi throws this grenade, in which a group of parental guidance-free children fend for themselves against all the elements: war, snow, thieves, and biology. The older hrother in a Kurand biology. The older fronter in a Kur-dish family, Ayouh — who regularly hauls goods over the Iran-Iraq horder at risk of death — has taken it upon himself to feed the family and take care of his ailing dwarf

hrother, who he learns needs an expensive operation. With no lack of imagination, or endurance, Ayoub hoofs his way through ambushes and toward the border with gang of smugglers and horses so pained they have to be made drunk to join the caravan in search of money for his surgery Ghobadi, the first Kurd to make a prominent feature about Kurds (he plays a major Continued on page 94









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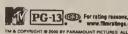
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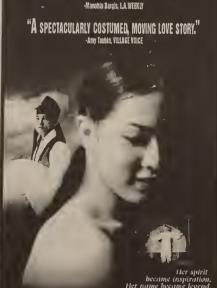


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calendar first runs, rep films, & movie clock

Human Rights Watch International Film Festival

Thurs/25-Sat/27. New PFA Theater, Rafael Film Center, and Yerba Buena Center for the Arts

en Loach may have gone the way of John Sayles these past few years, opting for strident speech-making over subtle storytelling, but don't let that scare you away from the Human Rights Watch International Film Festival.

The opening night movie, Loach's *Bread and Roses* (about a great subject: striking janitors in Los Angeles), probably will sell out before you read this, anyway, but there's plenty of great work to take its place. In Kevin McKiernan's Good Kurds. Bad Kurds: No Friends but the Mountains, the film's decade-long tracking of an issue transcends its news-reporter format as it tells of the awful relationship between the U.S. and Kurdish peoples (who are deemed "good" when they're being used for U.S. propaganda purposes against Iraq and expendable when they're fighting for self-determination from Turkey). Other must-sees include Nickolaus Geyrhalter's Pripyat, an extremely odd,



spare, and compelling look at people who've returned to the Chernobyl area to live and the power plant that created the carnage; closing-night film The Widow of St. Pierre, Patrice Leconte's stately period piece about the death penalty, French Canadian style; and Deborah Hoffmann and Frances Reid's Long Night's Journey into Day, an intriguing look at South Africa's courageous Truth and Reconciliation Commission. Other films include Crazy, in which soldiers relate war experiences to the music that helped them through it; The Diplomat, on East Timorese independence leader José Ramos Horta; Public Enemy, on the Black Panther movement; and WTO protest doc Trade Off. See Rep Clock for a complete schedule. (Susan Gerhard)

Ongoing

role in Samira Makhmalbaf's recent entry on the region, *Blackboards*), is breaking ground as he crosses borders. (1:20) *Four*

Star. (Gerhard)

Traffic Give Steven Soderberg's Traffic credit for trying to grapple with a huge, nonfun issue (the war on drugs) on fairly populist terms. Michael Douglas plays a populist terms. Michael Douglas plays a judge gunning for the big time — D.C. drug czardom — and learning beltway politics the usual hard way. Meanwhile, San Diego trophy wife Catherine Zeta-Jones is shocked to discover her husband's bankroll is, like, 100 percent FBI-seizable. Quality of lifestyle threatened, she must make a hard choice victory and programs and programs and programs of the prog choice: virtuous poverty or drug queen-pinning till hubby gets sprung? Traffic is an ensemble piece, and the plot threads im-prove the further they get from innocent victimhood: Luis Guzman and Don Chea-dle are great as DEA agents who get go-be-tween Miguel Ferrer over a barrel and *real*ly enjoy rolling him around; Benicio del Toro is a corrupt penny-ante Mexican cop who lucks into bigger leagues of badness. The script does little more than quick-refrice the war on drugs as an evergreen propagandistic decoy for governments with more important subterranean eco-nomic machines (economic race-class segregation, military megaspending, corporate policy-buying, environmental pillage) to keep ka-chinging away. There's no discussion here of responsible usage — the omnipresent party favor Hollywood will never admit to; additionally, the film's equal-op finger-pointing surface doesn't fully hide the fact that its Mexico looks like sleazebag purgatory versus stateside neat 'n' prettiness. Traffic is expansive in length, locational sprawl, and character clutter — but its blood pressure stays all too sensibly regation, military megaspending, corpo but its blood pressure stays all too sensibly even. (2:20) Century Plaza, Coronet, Emery Bay, Empire, Jack London, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, UA Berkeley. (Harvey) Vertical Limit To the sound of one parka flapping, Vertical Limit takes a spill in its very first shot and goes downhill from

there. Peter (Chris O'Donnell) has 36 hours to rescue a group of stranded climbers, including his sister Annie (Robin Tunney). The film's prime notion of brav-ery: 'tis better to risk several necks than give up on an already doomed one. The screenplay is credited to Robert King and Terry Hayes, but one detects the inimitable stamp of committee here, with Robby the Robot perhaps responsible for a final cut-and-paste. The ornery-obsessive resident hermit type "knows this mountain like no-body else"; his sage wisdom runs toward pronouncements like "People die up there!" When one imminent ice sculpture screams, "It's gonna blow!!!," you think, Baby, what here doesn't blow? Vertical Limit offers further proof that digital FX are a offers further proof that digital FX are a bad reason to make a movie, even when they're very good. And here, they're not. Hitherto able blockbustmeister Martin Campbell (Goldeneye, The Mask of Zorro) faux-hotdogs through a pileup of generally ludicrous crises creamed time and again by technology that (especially at an estimated \$1.00 mil price to:) i conscients the termed. \$100 mil price, tag) is amazingly unamazing. If Hollywood can't reliably buy a thrill, what's left? Oh yeah: good storytelling. (2:06) Metreon, 1000 Van Ness. (Harvey) What Women Want You have to wonder what's really going on in a movie that so readily confesses its intention to turn manly movie icon Mel Gibson into a huggy bear for the chick-flick market. As Nick Marshall, a sexist advertising exec, Gibson is forced to atone for his macho, philan-dering ways when Darcy Maguire (Helen Hunt) becomes his boss and orders him to start churning out ads for women's prod-ucts like pantyhose. Accidentally electrocuted while cross-dressing - he's "doing research" on female consumers — Gibson gains the power to hear women's thoughts. With his new powers of perception, Gib-son goes from heing a clueless manipulative turd to a dangerous manipulative turd who can steal his female colleagues' ideas right out of their minds. Using his ESP, Gibson eavesdrops on Hunt's brainstorm-ing and snaps up her job by launching a successful ad campaign for Nike women's

division based on her thoughts. But Hunt ends up getting it on with Gibson, so I guess what women want (aside from Nike running shoes, of course) is to be profes-sionally and mentally dominated by dipshits. This movie made me long for the good old days when Gibson was just a macho pig in leather instead of a cross-dressing nellie pig in control-top panty-hose. (2:03) Century Plaza, Emery Bay, Jack London, Metreon, 1000 Van Ness, UA Berke-ley. (Annalee Newitz)

→ Yi Yi If Yi Yi, which won the Best Director prize at last year's Cannes Film Festival, seems like Taiwanese director Edward Yang's most accessible film, it's because it documents that process of looking back and reassessing; it seems to be Yang's com-mentary on how far he's come and how he's doing so far. Yi Yi owes its structural complexities to the wide array of charac-ters in the film and the tangle of their rela tionships. The film's meandering and loose-limbed narrative appears necessary to relate these lives in as transparent a mode as possible, and what is most impressive about Yi Yi is that it takes the familiar and examines it outside the conventions of movies. The film tells the story of one person's life, refracted into five differ ent people making up a family — childhood, adolescence, marriage, middle-age, old age. And, like a soap opera, the film feels like several different genres entwined. All of these strands help to vary the mood and provide relief from one another, but it's the middle-aged father's struggle that it's the middle-aged father's struggle that holds down the center. Perhaps this is because the film is really about him, or perhaps it's because of Wu Nien-jen's performance; he's able to convey perfectly, through his face and body language alone, the feeling of a man who's more than a bit worn out by the world. (2:53) Lumiere, Rafael, Shattuck. (Alvin Lu)

You Can Count on Me This is one of those quiet austers films that seems like it is all the seems like it is all

quiet, austere films that seems like it isn't saying much until some corner is turned and you realize that it's speaking volumes. Laura Linney plays a single mom struggling to raise her young son in a small rural town,

whose life spirals into chaos when her slacker brother (Mark Ruffalo) returns home to get his own life together and she begins sleeping with her married boss, played by Matthew Broderick at his nerdy best. Play wright Kenneth Lonergan makes his direc torial debut here, and while this is hardly a flamboyant or fast-paced film, it's outstandingly well-written, with sharply nuanced performances, especially from Ruffalo, whose endearing loser has you pulling for him even as he manages to screw up every last chance he's given. Difficult at times, You Can Count on Me is an authentic and engagingly low-key film with a sincerity that can only come from the heart. (1:32) Embarcadero, Shattuck. (Taylor)

Rep picks

◆ Girlfight Love for boxers can't exist with some fan outside the gym; the true consummations have always been within the ring — with the passionate coupling going down in front of thousands of tans, the loser's blood marking the floor like some ritual remnant of virginity, as some left-out girl chump like Rocky's Adrian sits weakly cheering from the sideline. Without trying, director Karyn Kusama has reversed that formula in the most literal of ways. Though she claims there's no connection hetween the names, Kusama invigorates her Adrian (Santiago Douglas) — this movie the love object is a male featherweight of great ambition with lithe mus-cle and a sweet face — and sculpts her pri-mary mover out of the mountainous physique of Michelle Rodriguez. This, too, is a story about loving boxing, but for the first time, you can feel the romance in every sense of the word, from the erotic glow of worked-out skin to the tensionbuilding mix of flamenco and synth sounds in a story where girl meets (or is that beats?) boy. The story has its *Blue Steel* moments, wherein young fighter focuses her anger, turns herself into a tool of revenge, and gets back at the sexist dad who did her mother wrong. But what moves the film along is the romance: when Girlfight takes off its gloves, you won't want to look away. (2:02) Red Vic. (Gerhard)

"Hidden Dragons: A Martial Arts Film

Festival Celebrating 'Crouching Tiger' The Four Star's festival showcases the giang hu flicks that paved the way for Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon. This week's films include Swordsman (King, 1990) and Kickhoxer (Wu, 1993). See Tiger on Beat and "Crouching Tigers," page 43. Four Star.

tary about the evacuation and relocation of more than 10,000 children (primarily lewish) from mainland Europe to Britain in the days prior to World War II, this film seems certain to open floodgates of tears. After briefly giving the circumstances in which the Kindertransport was created (Britain was the only country to participate), director Mark Jonathan Harris wisely narrows the focus to several individual survivors, who tell heartbreaking stories of leaving parents behind (most of whom did not escape and perished in concentration camps) and adjusting — sometimes not very well — to life in English foster homes. Although it is an intriguing and intelligently made film, what makes Into the Arms of Strangers so compelling is the survivors themselves, quietly describing the bravery they were forced to find within themselves when they were still very young. A compelling investigation of a riveting subject, the film is somber and serious, but instead of depressing the viewer, it is an ultimately touching and uplifting story. (1:57) *Red Vic.* (Taylor)

Orfeu The Greek myth of Orpheus made a previous cinematic foray to Brazil in 1959

with Black Orpheus. Although that film was beautifully made, its depiction of happy, ignorant savages who spend their days doing the samba looks pretty dated today. Brazilian director Carlos Diegues's take on the myth is a more revealing and less patronizing look at the lives of those who inhabit the Brazilian shantytowns known as favelas. Orpheus here becomes Orfeu, a successful composer, singer, and choreographer who still lives in the slums and is renowned for leading the annual

Carnaval procession. Euridice becomes Euricides, the girl from the country who wins his heart, inspiring Orfeu to confront his former best friend Lucinho, who has become a powerful drug dealer. It all sounds familiar, but hey, it's a popular myth; it should sound familiar. Diegues has made a dizzyingly operatic and passionate film that still has a humanist heart, opining that true beauty isn't found in the spectacle of Carnaval but in a glance hetween lovers. (1:52) Red Vic. (Taylor) Panic Director Henry Bromell's Panic dares

to take verrry seriously what Analyze This, Coldblooded, The Whole Nine Yards, and Gun Shy have already parodied: that midlife-crisis-of-a-sensitive-hitman-in-therapy thing. William H. Macy plays Alex, a model son, husband, and father. He resides in some pristine commuter hamlet with loving wife and their adorable tyke. Doting gram 'n' gramps (Barbara Bain, Donald Sutherland) are just a hop and a skip away. Alex runs his own mail-order service, but he also works "in the family business": He kills people! For money! Alex doesn't like his "other" job, so he consults headshrinker Dr. Parks, whose caring rationality is personified by facially fuzzy-wuzzy John Ritter. (Repeat: *Panic* is not a comedy.) Alex hopes to heal his wounded inner child, but wouldn't you know, it's not that simple. Geez, can it be that cardigan-clad, pipe-smoking Pops has been, well, truly evil all along?? Panic's bogusness is

exceeded only by its poker-faced self-importance. Bromell *beheves* in lines even his actors, let alone the audience, cannot: "What do you want?!" "You." Now we do know that Macy can lie with dog-smelling material and get up sans the fleas of humiliation. Which cannot be said of Suther-land or Bain, two oft-fine veterans whose "shocking" transformation here into Frankenfolks had me howling for mercy.

(1:30) Roxie. (Harvey)

Paragraph 175 One expects highly polished, intelligently felt treatments of serious themes from veteran local documen-tarians Rob Epstein and Jeffrey Friedman (The Celluloid Closet; Where Are We?; Com-mon Threads). Still, this agonized yet lyrical feature surpasses even their lofty prior standards. Tracking down nearly all (one among 12 refused to participate) survivors of gay persecution under the Third Reich, the filmmakers intercut their testimonies (wrenching, sometimes funny, highly dra-matic, surprisingly diverse) with archival footage tracing Germany's progress from the wide-open Weimar era to Nazi "degenerate" roundups and concentration camps. Narrated by Rupert Everett, the film manages to balance oft-grueling personal sto-ries with a soothing (if melancholy) poeti-cism; it refuses to let historic horror and tragedy erase the social-sexual freedoms tasted just beforehand. Too depressing? Get over it. This is not to be missed. (1:21) UC Theatre. (Harvey) &





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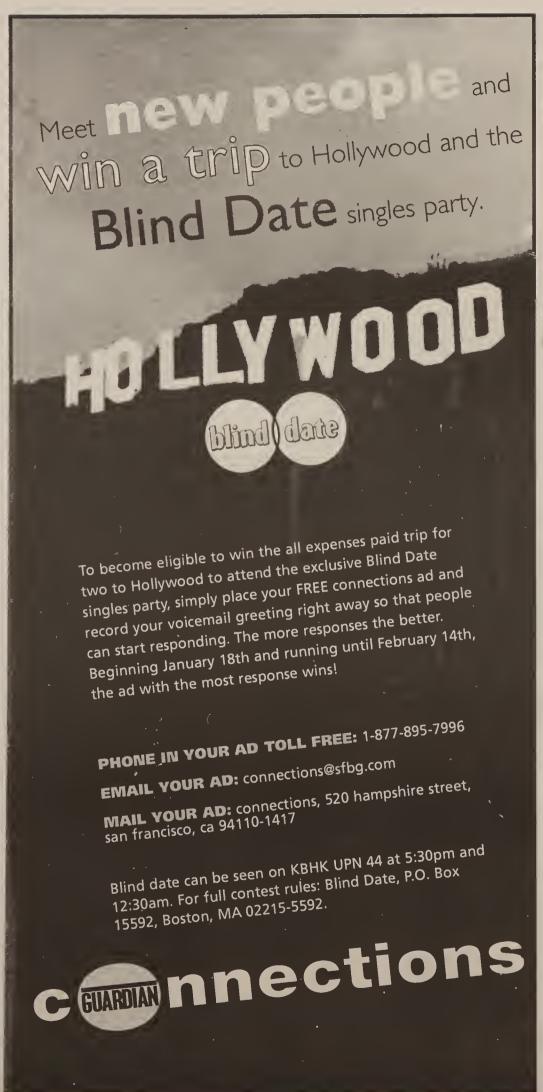




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ACE, AMPAS, ASC, BAFTA-LA, BAFTA-NY, CAS, DGA, HFPA, MPEG, MPSE, Nat. Soc. of IIIm Critics, PGA, SAG Nom. Comm., SMPTAD and WGA Members and a guast are walcome.

CROUCHINGTIGER COM



rep clock calendar repertory theater schedules



Paris, 1948: The Black Filmmakers Hall of Fame hosts a screening of William Greaves's documentary Ralph Bunche: An American Odyssey Tues/30 at Herbst Theatre, Bunche, a scholar turned U.N. statesman, was the first person of color to win the Nobel Peace Prize

Schedules are for Wed/24 through Tues/30 except where noted. Double features are noted with a •. Director and year are given when

ARTISTS' TELEVISION ACCESS 992 Valencia: 824-3890. \$3-5. Bay Area Workers Democracy Network hosts a video presentation about labor issues in Mexico and Turkey Sat, 4. When Robots Attack (Diehl and Martin) Sat, 8. Robot costumes encouraged.

CASTRO 429 Castro; 621-6120. \$4.50-7. "Berlin and Beyond": "The Best of German Film Schools," shorts Wed, 1; Straight Through the Heart (Dorrie, 1983) Wed, 3; The Policewoman (Dresen, 2000) Wed, 5; Just Messing About (Kuhn, 1999) Wed, 7; Sumo Bruno (Krawinkel, 2000) Wed, 9:30; Marlene (Vilsmaier, 2000) Thurs, 7. Diary of a Chambermaid (Moreau, 1964) Fri/26-Thurs/1, 7, 9:15 (also Sat/27-Sun/28, Wed/31, 1, 4:15).

EXPLORATORIUM McBean Theater, 3601 Lyon; 563-7337. Free. "Annual Open Screen-," hosted by the International Animated Film Association Thurs, 7:30.

FINE ARTS CINEMA 2451 Shattuck, Berks (510) 843-3699. \$4-7. • The Smallest 5how on Earth (Dearden, 1957) with "This Theater and You" (1950) Wed-Thurs, 7:30 and Day for Night (Truffaut, 1973) Wed-Thurs, 9:15. Megacities (Glowogger, 1999) Fri/26-Thurs/1, 7:30, 9:15 (also Sun, 5:45).

HERBST THEATER 401 Van Ness; 392-4400. \$15-20 (screening); \$50 (screening and reception). Ralph Bunche; An American screening 7:30. Discussion with filmmaker

HUMAN RIGHTS WATCH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL Yerba Buena Center for the Arts. 701 Mission; 978-ARTS. \$3-6. Bread and Roses (Loach, 2000) Thurs, 6:30. Public Enemy (Meurer, 1999) Fri, 9:30am (special high school screening); Sat, 9:15. Good Kurds, Bad Kurds: No Friends but the Mountains (McKiernan, 2000) Sat, 7. Pacific Film Archive, 2575 Bancroft, Berk; (510) 642-1412. \$4.50-7. Long Night's Journey into Day (Hoffman and Reid, 1999) Fri, 7:30. Pripyat (Geyrhalter, 1999) Sat, 5. Crazy (Honigmann, 1999) Sat, 7:15. Bread and Roses (Loach, 2000) Sat, 9:15. Rafael Film Center, 1118 Fourth St, San Rafael; (415) 454-1222. \$4.50-7.50. The Diplomat (Zubrycki, 2000) Fri, 6:30. Pripyat (Geyrhal-ter, 1999) Fri, 9. Trade Off (Mercer, 2000) with "Made in the YoUth S.A." (Youth Organizers, 2000) Sat, 2. The Widow of St. Pierre (Leconte, 2000) Sat, 7. See Critic's Choice.

ISTITUTO ITALIANO OI CULTURA 425 Washington; 788-7142, \$3, "New Italian Cinema" Prime luci dell'alba (Gaudino, 2000) Tues, 6.

MEDIA ALLIANCE 814 Mission, Ste 205; 546-6334. Free. A Place Called Chiapas (1996-97) Wed, 7. Introduction to screening and update of current events in Mexico by Nancy Charraga of the San Francisco Zapatista Committee.

NEW PFA THEATER 2725 Bancroft, Berk; (510) 642-1412. \$4.50-7. "Film 50: History of Cinema": "Films of D.W. Griffith and Lois Chema: Prims of D.W. Griffith and Lois Weber" Wed, 3. "Magnetic North: Canadian Video": "Subject/Object," short films Wed, 7:30. "The Joys of Repertory": Henry V (Olivier, 1945) Sun, 5:30; The Arabian Nights (Pasolini, 1974) Sun, 8:10. "Classics of mas": Yellow Earth (Chen, 1984) Mon, 6. 'Alternative Visions" 'New/Re/View 2. shorts Tues, 7:30.

RAFAEL FILM CENTER 1118 Fourth St. San Rafael; (415) 454-1222. \$4.50-7. "The Big Thaw: Soviet Films of the 60s": No Path Through the Flames (Panfilov. 1967) Wed, 7. Yi Yi (Yang, 2000) Wed-Thurs, call for times. George Washington (Green, 2000) Fri/26-Thurs/1, call for times.

REO VIC 1727 Haight; 668-3994. \$3-6.50 Bamboozled (Lee.

2000) Wed, 2, 7, 9:45. Girlfight (Kusama, 2000) Wed, 2, 7, 3-43. Gringht (kds.hha), 2000) Thurs-Fri, 7:15, 9:25. Raging Bull (Scorsese, 1980) Sat-Sun, 2, 4:40, 7:20, 9:55. Orfeu (Diegues, 2000) Mon-Tues, 7, 9:25. Genghis Blues (Belic, 1999) Wed/31-Thurs/1, 7:15, 9:15 (also Wed/31, 2).

ROXIE 3117 16th St; 863-1087. \$3-7. Megaci-NOAL 3117 16th St; 865-1087. 35-7. Megaci ties (Glowogger, 1999) Wed/24-Thurs/25, 6, 8, 10 (also Wed/24, 2, 4); Frt/26-Thurs/1, 6, 9:45 (also Sat/27-Sun/28, Wed/31, 2). Panic (Bromell, 2000) Fri/26-Thurs/1, 8 (also Sat/27-Sun/28, Wed/31, 4.)

SAN FRANCISCO PUBLIC LIBRARY Koret Auditorium, Lower level, 100 Larkin; 557-4277. Free. "Beyond the Maltese Falcon: San Francisco Film Noir": Out of the Past (Tourneur, 1947) Thurs, noon,

TIMKEN LECTURE HALL California College of Arts and Crafts, 450 Irwin; www.ektaonline.org. \$10-30. "Traveling Film South Asia," documentary festival: Jibon (Life) (Mazid, 1998) Sun, 1; "Letter to Samten" (Gabbay, 1999) Sun, 2; Fishers of Men (Kamath and Rao, 1997) Sun, 2:40; "Listening to Shadows (Sarkar, 1998) Sun, 4:50; Three Women and a Camera (Gadihoke, 1998) Sun, 5:20

21 GRANO 21 Grand, Oakl; (510) 44-GRAND. \$5-10. Space Is the Place (Coney, 1974) Tues, 8.

UC BERKELEY ART MUSEUM 2625 Durant, Berk; (510) 642-0808. \$4-6. "Tacita Dean/ Matrix 189 Banewl," film installation by conceptual artist Tacita Dean Thurs, Hain-9pin; Fri-Sun, 11am-5pm. Through Sun/28.

UC THEATRE 2036 University, Berk; (510) 843-FILM. \$4-6.50. Into the Arms of Strangers (Harris, 2000) Wed-Thurs, 4:30, 7, 9:30. George Washington (Green, 2000) Fri-Sun, 5, 7, 9 (also Sat-Sun, 1, 3). Paragraph 175 (Epstein and Friedman, 2000) Mon/29-Thurs/1, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30.

VICTORIA THEATER 2961 18th St; 701-9502. \$2.50-5 (no one turned away for lack of funds). "The Shades of Power Festival 2001 Alliance Building with Film and Video": Bus Riders Union (Wexler, 2000) Fri, 7; "Police, Prisons, and Just-Us": "Maximum Security University: Death and Cover-Up at America's Most Violent Prison" (1999), "Reason to Fear" (2000), "Voice of the Voiceless: The Life, the Words, the Movement" (2000) Sat, 1; "Youth in a Time of War"; "Letter Back Home" (1995), "South Central Los Angeles" (1996), "Rainbow Warriors in a Time of Crisis". (2000), "Sisters at the Center" (1999) Sat, 4; The Color of Violence: A Woman of Color Movement (Canipa, 2001) with "Shangri-La Cafe" (Mariye, 1999), "Made in Thailand" (1999) Sat, 7; "Poor, Homeless, and Fighting Back": "Algún Día" (1998), "Outriders" (1998), "Gentro/Mixed/Mojado" (Urquijo, 2001) Sun, 11a; "Resisting Imperialism": Vieques: Un Pueblo Forjando Futures/An Island Forgiving Futures (Ruiz, 2000) and The Tribunal (Puhipau and Lander, 1993) with 'Stolen Freedom: Occupied Palestine' (1991) Sun, 2.

YERBA BUENA CENTER FOR THE ARTS 701 Mission; 978-ARTS. \$3-7. "Extreme Teens," videos created by or in collaboration with teenagers Tues-Sun, noon, 2:05, 4:15. Through

ZEUM 221 Fourth St; 777-2800. \$2-3. "Animation Celebration"; The Secret of NIMH (Bluth, 1986) Sun, 12:30 and 3. 4



'The Wedding Planner'

Sweet emotion

ehold the multimedia monolith that is Jennifer Lopez: she sings, dances, she acts, she dates a high-profile musician, she gets away with wearing teensy slivers of cloth and calling 'em a dress. Her stunning ascent from Fly Girl to Force of World Domination is the result of her savvy market saturation — Oscars, Grammys (original Coth and calling 'em a dress. Her stuffning ascent from Py diff to Force of World Doffmation of the Force of Toronton of the Force of everyone else look like they have a flat, droopy ass. A mix of stunning business acumen and tidy coincidence greets the release of Lopez's latest cinematic foray, the lighter-than-air cake topper that is The Wedding Planner, her second album is about to drop, and her beleaguered boyfriend, the passé Puff Daddy, is on trial for an "incident" involving a loaded gun and a bribery attempt. While Lopez the recording artist has found a comfortable niche in dance-pop, Lopez the movie star hasn't yet settled: the biopic Selena was her breakthrough, and she worked an agreeable sexy-tough cop persona in Out of Sight. Now, just in time for Valentine's Day, she's dipping her Gucci-shod toes into a floofy romantic comedy (appropriately, genre patron saint Meg Ryan's Prufrock Pictures coproduces). As a perfectionist who arranges lavish ceremonies for swanky San Francisco couples, Lopez endures the agony and ecstasy of love, love, love when she falls for a hunky, mouth-breathing doctor (Matthew Mc-Conaughey) who, in the name of pure conflict, also happens to be a client. Whew! Poor Jenny — will she and the man of her dreams ever get together? Will her lip gloss and French manicure remain flawless in every scene? Will people hear her new single over the film's closing credits and run out to buy the new album? But of course they will, silly. Ain't Lopez grand? (Cheryl Eddy)

Show times run Wed/24-Tues/30 and are subject to change. Times in italic are bargain matinees. Double features are noted with a •. & Wheelchair accessible. I Listening device. P Free, reduced rate, or validated parking. See Rep Clock, page 96, for information on rep houses and special film programs.

San Francisco

ALEXANDRIA # P Geary/18th Ave. 752-5100. Call for times. Cast Away, The Pledge, Save the Last Dance.

BALBOA 38th Ave/Balboa. 221-8184. Call theater for shows and times.

BRIDGE Geary/Blake. 352-0810. O Brother, Where Art Thou? 2:15, 4:40, 7:15, 9:45 (also Fri-Sun, 11:50a).

CENTURY PLAZA J P So. San Francisco, Tiger, Hidden Dragon 11:25a, 2, 4:55 10:20 (Fri-Tues, 10:25 show replaces 10:20 show). The Gift Wed-Thurs, 11:30a, 2:10, 5, 7:45, 10:40; Fri-Tues, 11:40a, 2:20, 5, 7:45, 10:35. The Pledge Wed-Thurs, 11:25a, 2:05, 5, 7:55, 10:25; Fri-Tues, 11:25a, 2:10, 5:05, 7:50, 10:30. Save the Last Dance Wcd-Thurs, 11:30a, 12:15, 2:15, 3, 4:50, 5:30, 7:30, 8, 10, 10:30; Fri-Tues, 11:30a, 2:10, 7:30, 8, 10, 10:30; Fr1-10:8, 11:30a, 2:10, 4:50, 7:30, 10:10. Shadow of the Vampire Fri-Tues, noon, 2:15, 4:45, 7:15, 9:55. Snatch Wed-Thurs, 11:45a, 2:30, 5:15, 8:05, 10:15; Fri-Tues, 11:45a, 2:30, 5:10, 7:35, 10:05. State and Main Wed-Thurs, noon, 2:35, 5:05, 7:25, 10:05. Sugar and Spice (starts Fri) 11:35a, 1:40, 3:45, 5:50, 8, 10:20. Traffic Wed-Fri, 12:45, 3:45, 7:10, 10:15; Fri-Tues, 12:15, 3:40, 7:10, 10:15 What Women Want Wed-Thurs, 11:40a, 2:25, 5:05, 7:55, 10:35; Fri-Tues, 11:50a, 2:25, 5:15, 7:55, 10:35.

CINEMA 21 & Chestnut/Steiner. 921-6720. Shadow of the Vampire Wed-Thurs, 11:25a, 1:35, 3:40, 5:45, 8, 10:05; Fri-Tues, 11:25a, 1:30, 3:35, 5:40, 7:55, 10:05 (Sat-Sun, 1:25 show replace 11:25a show).

CLAY 7 Fillmore/Clay. 352-0810. Malena 4:40, 7, 9:20 (also Fri-Sun, 2:15).

COLMA (METRO CENTER) 7 P 280 Metro Center, Colma. (650) 994-2503. Call for times and Fri-Tues shows. AntiTrust, Dou-ble Take, Dude, Where's My Car?, The Em-peror's New Groove, Finding Forrester, Miss Congeniality, Thirteen Days.

Call for times. Traffic.

EMBARCADERO CENTER CINEMA & # P One Embarcadero Center, Promenade level. 352-0810. House of Mirth 12:15, 3:30, 6:45, 9:50. Quills 1, 4, 7:10, 10. State and Main noon, 12:45, 2:30, 3:45, 5, 7, 7:40, 9:40, 10:15 (Tues, no noon and 7:40 shows). You Can Count on Me 1:15, 4:30, 7:20, 10:10.

EMPIRE # P West Portal/Vicente. 661-2539. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon 1, 4, 7:15, 10 (Fri-Tues, 9:50 show replaces 10 show). Save the Last Dance noon, 2:30, 5, 7:35, 10:10. Traffic 12:30, 3:45, 7, 10:20 (Fri-Tues, 10 show replaces 10:20 show). FOUR STAR Clement/23rd Ave. 666-3488. Call theater for time. Butterfly and Sword, Bride with White Hair, Genghis Khan, Restless, A Time for Drunken Horses, Wu

GALAXY & ⊅ Sutter/Van Ness. 474-8700. Call for times. Cast Away, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Miss Congeniality, Save the Last Dance.

KABUKI 8 & Z P Post/Fillmore. 931-9800. Call theater for show times. AntiTrust, Cast Away, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Double Take, The Family Man, The Gift, Miss Congeniality, Save the Last Dance.

LUMIERE & # P California/Polk, 352-0810. Before Night Falls 6:30, 9:15 (also Wed-Thurs, 7, 9:45; Fri-Sun, 11:45a, 3). George Washington (starts Fri) 5, 7:15, 9:30 (also Fri-Sun, 12:30, 2:45). Yi Yi 5, 8:30 (also Fri-

METREON & Fourth St/Mission. 369-6200. Call theater for show times. AntiTrust, Cast Away, Chocolat, Cirque de Soleil (1max), Away, Chocolat, Cirque de Solet (maxy, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Cyber World (lmax), Double Take, Dude, Where's My Car?, The Emperor's New Groove, The Family Man, Finding Forrester, The Gift, Michael Jordan to the Max (Imax), Miss Congeniality, The Pledge, Save the Last Dance, Snatch, Thirteen Days, Traffic, Vertical Limit, What Women

METRO Union/Webster. 931-1685. Call for times. Snatch.

1000 VAN NESS & 7 P 1000 Van Ness. 931-9800. Call theater for show times. The Amati Girls, AntiTrust, Dude, Where's My Car?, Double Take, The Emperor's New Grove, The Family Man, Finding For-rester, The Gift, The Pledge, Snatch, Thir-teen Days, Traffic, Vertical Limi, What Women Want.

OPERA PLAZA & J Van Ness/Golden Gate. 32-0810. All the Pretty Horses Mon-Thurs, 2:20, 5, 7:40; Fri-Sun, 1, 4, 7, 9:45. Best in Show Mon-Thurs, 2:50, 5:30, 8; Fri-Sun 1:30, 4:30, 7:30, 9:30. Billy Elliot Mon-Thurs, 2:30, 5:10, 7:45; Fri-Sun, 1:10, 4:10, 7:10, 9:40. Requiem for a Dream Mon-Thurs, 2:40, 5:20, 7:50; Fri-Sun, 1:20, 4:20, 7:20, 9:50,

PRESIDIO J Chestnut/Scott. 922-1318. Chocolat Wed-Thurs, 12:45, 4:10, 7, 9:30; Fri-Tues, 12:30, 4:15, 7, 9.

STONESTOWN & J P 19th Ave/Winston. 21-8182. Call theater for times. Cast Away, Miss Congeniality.

VDGUE # Sacramento/Presidio. 221-8183. all for times. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon.

WORLD THEATER & Broadway/Columbus. 391-1393. Call theater for shows and times.

Oakland |

GRAND LAKE & J P 3200 Grand, Oakl. 452-3556. Cast Away Wed-Thurs, 12:15, 3:15, 6:30, 9:30. Chocolat Wed-Thurs, 11:45a,

2:15, 4:30, 7:15, 9:35; Fri-Tues, 1, 4, 7:15, 9:35. Miss Congeniality noon, 2:30, 5, 7:30, 10. Thirteen Days 12:30, 3:45, 7, 9:45. Sugar and Spice (starts Fri) 12:15, 2:15, 4:15, 6:15,

JACK LONDON CINEMA 100 Washington, Jack London Square, Oakl. 433-1320. Cast Away 12:30, 3:55, 7 (Fri-Tues, 7:05 show replaces 7 show), 10:25. Double Take 11a, 1:10, 3:30, 5:50, 8:15, 10:40. The Emperor's New Groove Wed-Thurs, 10:55a, 1:05, 3:20, 5:30, 7:35; Fri-Tues, 11:30a, 1:35, 3:50, 6:05. Finding Forrester noon, 4, 7:15, 10:10. The Pledge 11:10a, 2, 4:50, 7:50, 10:45 (Thurs/1, no 7:50 show). Save the Last Dance 11:25a, 2:10, 4:55, 7:40, 10:30. Snatch 11:15a, 1:45, 4:20, 7:10, 9:45. Traffic 12:15, 3:45, 7, 10:15. The Wedding Planner (starts Fri) 11:35a, 2:20, 5:05, 8, 10:45. What Women Want Wed-Thurs, 11:05a, 1:50, 4:40, 7:30, 10:20.

PARKWAY 1834 Park, Oakl. 814-2400. Best in Show Wed-Thurs, 7. Billy Elliot Wed-Thurs, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 9. Charlie's Angels Wed-Thurs, 9:45. The Family Man Fri, Mon-Tues, 6:30 (also Mon, 9:15); Sat-Sun, 6. Rocky Horror Picture Show Sat, midnight. Two Family House Wed-Thurs, 6:30. What Women Want Fri and Tues, 9:15; Sat-Sun, 9; Mon, 7. You Can Count on Me Fri-Tues, 9:45 (also Fri-Sun, Tues, 7).

PIEDMONT 7 Piedmont/41st St, Oakl. 843-3456. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon Wed-Thurs, 4:15, 7:15, 10; Fri-Tues, 4:15, 7, 9:40 (also Sat-Sun, 1:15). Quills Wed-Thurs, 3:45, 7, 9:45. Shadow of the Vampire Fri-Tues, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:30 (also Sat-Sun, 1:30). State and Main 4, 6:45, 9:15 (also Sat-Sun, 1:40).

Berkeley area

ACT I AND II 7 P Center/Shattuck, Berk. 843-3456. Crouching Tiger, Hidden Drag-on Wed-Thurs, 4:50, 5:30, 7:25, 8:30, 10; Fri-Tues, 5:30, 7, 8:30, 9:40 (also Sat-Sun, 1, 2:30, 4).

ALBANY & 2 1115 Solano, Albany. 843-3456. Malena 6:30, 8:45 (also Sat-Sun, 1:30, 4). State and Main 6:45, 9 (also Sat-Sun, 1:45, 4:15).

CALIFORNIA J P Kittredge/Shattuck, Berk. 843-3456. Chocolat 4:20, 7, 9:30 (also Fri-Sun, 1:40). The Gift 4:30, 7:15, 9:40 (also Fri-Sun, 1:50). Quills Wed-Thurs, 4:05, 6:45, 9:20. Shadow of the Vampire Fri-Tues, 3:30, 5:30, 7:30, 9:45 (also Fri-Sun, 1:30).

ELMW00D 2966 College, Berk. 649-0530. Call theater for shows and times.

EMERY BAY & # P 6330 Christie, Emeryville. 420-0107. Call for times. Cast Away, Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon, Double Take, The Gift, The Pledge, Save the Last Dance, Snatch, Thirteen Days, Traffic, What Women Want.

OAKS & # 1875 Solano, Berk. 526-1836. Snatch 4:30, 7, 9:15 (also Sat-Sun, noon, 2:15). Thirteen Days 7:30 (also Fri-Sun, 4; Sat-Sun, 12:30).

ORINDA & # 4 Orinda Theater Square, Orinda. 254-9060. All the Pretty Horses Wed-Thurs, 8:45. Cast Away Wed-Thurs, 4, 7:30; Fri-Tues, 6, 9 (also Sat-Sun, noon, 3). Chocolat 4:15, 7, 9:30 (also Sat-Sun, 1:30). The Emperor's New Groove Wed-Thurs, 4, 5:30, 7:15. Shadow of the Vampire Fri-Tues, 4, 6, 8, 9:45 (also Sat-Sun, noon, 2).

SHATTUCK CINEMAS & 2 2230 Shattuck, Berk. 843-3456. Before Night Falls 2:15, 5:15, 8:15. Best in Show 1 (Fri-Tues, 1:05 show replaces 1 show), 3:15, 5:20, 7:35, 9:35. Billy Elliot Wed-Thurs, 2:25, 5, 7:25, 9:50; Fri-Tues, 1:20, 4, 6:30, 9. Finding For-rester 12:50, 3:45, 6:40, 9:25. The House of Mirth 2, 5:05, 8:10. Miss Congeniality Wed-Thurs, 1:40, 4:20, 6:45, 9:20. O Brother, Where Art Thou? 12:40, 3:05, 5:30, 7:50, thurs, no 10:10 (also Wed-Thurs, 1:20, 4, 6:30, 9; Wed-Thurs, no 10:10 show). The Pledge 1:30, 4:15, 7, 9:45. The Wedding Planner (starts Fri) 2:25, 5, 7:25, 9:50. Yi Yi Fri-Tues, 1, 4:30, 8. You Can Count on Me 1:45, 4:20 (Fri-Tues, 4:10 show replaces 4:20 show), 6:50, 9:15.

UA BERKELEY 2 2274 Shattuck, Berk.. 843-1487. Call for times. The Amati Girls, AntiTrust, Cast Away, Double Take, Save the Last Dance, Traffic, What Women Want. ❖









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WOMENEKINGMEN

I'm blonde, 5'4" tall & am rubinesque. I'm looking for someone I can love but we'll see because you have to start out as friends first. I just turned the big 40 yrs. old. I generally like younger men from 25 yrs. old up to my age because I have a pretty unique outlook on life which is not to say I'm not responsible, because I am. I'm definitely not a party person or a gym junkie. I don't go out & drink. I do occasionally smoke cigarettes.

My name's Melanie. I'm 29 yrs. old. I'm recently divorced. I'm Caucasian, I live in Sacramento. I'm looking for a long-term, committed, monogamous relationship. I'm a beautiful, full-figured lady with shoulderlength, reddish-brown hair & blue eyes. I'm open, honest, intelligent, articulate, playful, outgoing, romantic & affectionate. I'm looking for someone who's romantic & who has a great sense of humor. Box 9663

This is Ebony. I'm 40 yrs. old. I'm from the East Coast. I weigh 115 lbs. I'm pretty small. I'm 5'4". I'm very independent. I'm employed. I'm a confident woman. I'm a woman who has her head on straight, so I know where I'm going in life & what it is that I must do to achieve those things. I'm a person who knows that games are for play & playgrounds. They're not for any type of relationship, whether it be friendship or a really serious one. I enjoy doing a lot of fun & exciting things. I love people. I'm a social butterfly. I love movies. Box 8842.

My name's Joanne, I live in Sacramento, I'm 25 yrs, old. I'm half Caucasion & half Mexican. I'm seeking a male between the ages of 27 & 35 yrs. old, someone who's not married or attached. Kids are okay. I have one, I'm looking for someone who can have fun anywhere & who's not at the gym 10 days a week. I just want some-

MESEEKINWOMEN

This is Kevin, I'm a 30 yr, old, half Japanese, half Caucasian male. I have dark-black hair, a goatee & a rather athletic build. I work out on a regular basis. I enjoy sports pretty much. I play softball about once a week. I try to play golf 2-3 times a month. I'm looking for someone who's more stable, who knows what they want & who's more mature. It doesn't matter if you have kids or not. I like kids a lot. I'm a very affectionate person. I'm looking for someone who's ready to have intellectual conversations on a regular basis & take it from there. Box 10105.

I'm a 37 yr. old, 6' tall, 180 lb., single, white man. I'd like to meet a slender to medium woman in the Sacramento area who's under the age of 50 yrs. old. I'm looking for a sensuous type woman who wants to get together for erotic evenings. I'm tired of bonng evenings & I hope you are too. Box 9093.

This is a 43 yr. old, white male. I have short, brown hair & hazel eyes. Understand that I'm big. I'm 5'11" & weigh 240 lbs. I have a 48" chest & a 40" waist. I don't weigh 240 lbs. I have a 48" chest & a 40" waist. I don't have a washboard stomach. I was a large child & I'm a large man. I'm looking for someone who's sincere, honest & most of all a caring friend with a good heart & a positive outlook on life. I'm easygoing & normally a little quiet. I work in the construction industry & I enjoy my work. I like movies, good conversation, quiet times & I'm a little nervous in crowds. I don't follow sports.

Box 8662

I'm a single, black male, I'm 24 yrs, old, I weigh 185 lbs I'm a single, black male. I m 24 yrs. old. I weign 185 lbs I have a muscular build & a nice, slim waist. I'm very attractive. I'm honest, playful & unique. I love to cook. I'm looking for a full-figured woman. As long as you're honest, race doesn't matter. I'm looking for honesty & understanding. Box 8408.

24 Hours a Day. 7 Days a Week.

415.288.2800 408.777.2800 510.433,0800 650,389,2800 831.427.9000 Enter code 325







OIL SHEIK,

≖6938 (03/28/01)

39, educated, sincere, passionate and no children seeks WPM, 45-58, successful, loving, caring and faithful for LTR/possible marriage. N/S.

PAST IMPERFECT

PAST IMPERFECT
Singular Professional JF with 7
year old dangling participle
seeking 45+ subject, funny, ±6849 (02/28/01)

☆7825 (04/18/01)

Healthy nurse, 43, tender heart, enjoying Holy Spint, Tal Chi/movement, song. East/West arts-medicine. Seeking professional as friend, future mate, husband to create enriching family life. You have positive coping skills, strength, clarity, knowledge and humble-

☎6719 (02/28/01)

NELLD
Are you an honest, loving, caring, no vices SWM, tall 50-65?
Me: 49, cute, Jewish nonconformist, 10 personality. Likes
garage sales, dining out,
movies, casual dresser for LTR. **☆**5475 (03/20/01)

FRENCH CONNECTION
Frenctl, beautiful, blonde, blue
eyes, 33 years old, Libra, long
legs, 5:7", 1:30 lbs., sincere
and honest looking for European man between 30-50,
clean cut, well traveled, attractive, sense of humor, bon vivant- Let's meet for coffee or
lunch.

±6959 (03/28/01)

TICRESS SEEMING...
SF, 19, 5'6", fit, dark hair/light skin, enjoys clubs, beaches, parties, art, karate, working out and exploring the city. Sound interesting? Please be a serious and sincere SM, 18-30. Box 6900.

OFFP SOUL OIVER

OEP SOUL OVER
Artistic, engaging, passionate
woman (SWF, 36) loves dancing, people, loving, living, Spirited, spiritual, down-to-earth; tall,
beautiful, athletic; actress, musician, teacher. Seeks vital, attractive man (30s-40s) for the
journey, and the dance.

BLUE EYED IN BERKELEY

35 1/2, 57*, 135, active, artistic. Seeking eligible bach lors for independent study to discover if there is any intelligent, warmhearted, nonsmokers also looking for a LTR, possibly marriage and children.

Connections events or to inbenefit from working with our e-mail jodyc@sfbg.com.

I'M YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION I'M YOUR NEW YEAR'S RESOLUTION
YOU want to capture more joy in
life with a dynamic, affectionate, voluptuous, silm, 5'7",
classy homeowner. You: SWPM,
40s, N/S, socially adept, good
communicator, capable of connecting on an intellectual, intimate and emotional level, let's
enjoy our lives together!

☎7816 (04/18/01)

JEWISN CHER TYPE
49, transplanted Miamian, seeks financially secure, tall, SWM, nonsmoker, non drinker 50-65, sense of humor is vitally important, likes garage sales, scrabble, pool, dining out, theater, must love dogs, looking for honesty, sincertly, LTR.

≈5487 (03/02/01)

Very warm, attractive, artistic, intelligent woman seeking brave, funny man, 34-50 to build beauful life, family. I'm 517°, Mediterranean looks, slim, billingual, lived outside US, love culture, wilderness, community, children. Foreign born, fine, race open.

PIECE OF ART
Beautiful, onginal, provocative
and interesting seeks to be
seen, understood and appreciated by someone willing to
study my deeper meaning. **≖**7826 (04/18/01)

BRAINY ATTRACTIVE

BRAINY ATTRACTIVE Switch-hitter who loves books, lingerie and sad songs, seeks a boy who has the emotional lan-guage of a 25-45 years old and who can kiss into tomorrow. Race extremely unimportant.

JAZZY, SWEET, PETITE

IAZZY, SWET, PETITE Fun, 50+, PJF seeks easygoing, playful, intelligent, jazz-loving "mensch" to share conversa-tions, travel, movies and the arts. Let's make beautiful music together. N/S only.

HOT YOUNG LATIN BABE

Adventurous, open-minded young Latina girl in search of a wealthy generous gentleman to spoil and pamper her. **=**6851 (02/28/01)

PETITE PASSIDNATE PIXIE

Youthful 50ish, ISO not-so-tall, attractive, easygoing, intelligent, caring man in 50s for conversation, city walks, cultural events and cuddling. Possible LTR. **±**6977 (03/28/01)

PALE, THIN, GOTHIC FEMALE Hoping there's still a single, longhaired, beautiful male counterpart for moon-filled romance, accompaniment to the clubs and possibly more. #6948 (03/28/01)

BE MY VALENTINE

Christian, pretty, 31, kindheart-ed, honest seeks best friend and soulmate. **≖**6956 (03/28/01)

ART, TRAVEL, WE'LTH

Charismatic performing artist/poet 46, flamboyant seeks daring, modern art lover. Be SWM in 40s-50s love films, travel, sprituality for deep, serious connection.

THROW CAUTION TO THE WIND Sultry, smart, passionate, green-eyed doll, 32, seeks attractive, available, articulate, stable man, 28.37, to enjoy comedy, music, TV, films. Could it be you? Box 7020.

PRETTY PUERTO RICAN 49 years old seeking hand-some man. 50-70 years old. 5'11"-6'2", 190-250 with ±6923 (03/28/01)

LIVE A LITTLE!

LIVE A LITTLE!
Creative, attractive, tall, fit,
funny SJF seeks similar adjectives in non-smoking SM, 3050. Bonus for screwball come
dy, jazz, basketball fans. dy, jazz, basketball fa \$\inf\$6936 (03/28/01)

Placing an ad in Connections is fast, free and easy! 1-877-895-7996.

VALENTINE'S WISH

East Bay, sweet, intelligent, fi-nancially secure beauty seeks professional 50-65 culturally di-verse, with social interests and similar qualities. **≖**6989 (03/28/01)

19 year oid, 5 fc*, dark brown hair and eyes, fit, 100% European. Looking for people who love to go out. I enjoy art, clubs, the beach, concerts, parties, belly dancing and more. Sound interesting? Then give me a call...

26954 (03/28/01)

EROTIC EXPLORATION
Tantric, more, pretty, fit, erotic, semiAsian, sane, successful, fun, no baggage, STOs, vices seeks similar med-tall SWM 40-50. Monogamous, open LTR switch, ok.

#6932 (03/28/01)

WARMHEARTED, ATTRACTIVE

≖6995 (03/28/01)

OFEAR GOD,
Please send me a happy,
healthy, handsome, honest,
kınd, compassionate, spiritual
and emotionally available
\$\cop{NM, 40-50, N/S, N/Or, and}
no kids. Love Anne. **☎**6949 (03/28/01)

BROWN SKINNED BABE

with knock out bod and gradu-ate degree seeks adventure with an athletic 45+ Indiana jones type with graduate de-

#6952 (03/28/01)



Adventuresome, sensual, bife-male, n/s, n/dr, and safe seeks same in bifemale for friendship and exploring our **☎**7796 (04/18/01)

BEAUTIFUL FEMME

ISO beautiful femme/ top. Be assertive not aggressive. Oance, yoga, theater, wine tasting, sandy beaches, romance, laughter are some of the things love.

≖6821 (02/28/01)

WE WORSNIP

big tits and big asses, enjoy our hospitality. Sond with us for a real suck and fuck friendship. #6844 (02/28/01)

TWIN PEAKS
Big breasted, Black beauty, attractive, long legs, curvy figure, 40ish seeks similar physically, women age 38-up, big boobs (0 cup), ample (not obese)butt, clean, discreet, disease free, ferminine, no drugs, smoking, heavy drinking.

7,780.1 (0.4/4.2/3). **☆**7801 (04/18/01)

PRETTY PUERTO RICAN

49, seeking that serious down-to-earth real woman for fun, ad-venture, friendship and more, 32-70. A/H/W. So let's talk. **☎**6922 (03/28/01)

26962 (03/28/01)

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e-mail jodyc@sfbg.com

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900-328-0133 (anytime, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week). From a

access a voice greeting within 30 seconds of your call. Cost is \$1.99 per minute. You must be at least 18 years of age.

Hey you! I am an attractive lady that is seeking a feminine lady. If you are looking for a nice time please message me. You won't be sorry. I'm mixed with Black, White and German.

FEMI-NINE BI-F SEEKS PRETTY GIRL



MASCULINE GUYS 21-36 YD

32, 5'8', 166lbs, into wrestling, working out, darts, road trips, bowling, cold beer hangin' with other similar straight appearing guys.

7810 (04/18/01)

TRIM AND ATTRACTIVE
SWM, 40, looking for masculine guys to rock my world. You be discreet, clean, HIV-, under 50's and ready.

≖6957 (03/28/01)

Big, fat, huge cock sucker sucks big, fat, huge cocks Squirt for me!! ±6980 (03/28/01)

Handsome Latino "boy", 27, 5'7", 135, goatee, bottom, ISO hot, generous dad type (40-55) for LTR or fun night out on the

±6084 (02/18/01)

BiMarried Male seeks same, Bi or Bi curious male for mutual discreet enjoyment, friendship. AM 35, health conscious, professional, enjoy outdoors.

ATTRACTIVE BLACK MALE

ATTRACTIVE BLACK MALE attached, bicurious seeks same in bi-curious, straight acting Asian male for long term discreet encounters, 5'7" or under 140 lbs. or under, age 18-30.

18-30.

18-30.

NOT A ONE NIGHT STAND Handsome, talented, tall, 22 year old, self aware, self assured GWM, possessing everything but Mr. Right. Seeks someone as unique as I am, who values friendship, love, honesty and the has the ability to have a good time. This is the season for romance! **☎**6583 (02/07/01)

horny STUDENT bl-curious? Near Colma 8ART WM, 50 for daytime fun. Ois-creet, private, I'm sIncere, let's

☆7007 (03/28/01)

fast, free and easyl

1,877,895,7996

CUTE LATIND BOY

CUTE LATING 80Y 21, 5'10, 150, smooth and fun seeking top, 20-30, 5'10"+, less 190lbs. Looking for a good time and well off/generous. \$\pi 6852 (02/28/01)\$

Handsome, talented, smooth, 42, 5'9", ISO HIV-, younger Asian male 18-35 for friendship **☆**7819 (04/18/01)

OLDER, ACTIVE, INTELLI-

GENT
62 year old GWM, HIV+, healthy
Italian ISO partner in things I like. Theater, symphony,
movies, hiking, camping, travel
and adventure. I'm easygoing,
versatile, non tobacco.

26953 (03/28/01)

DAD SPANKS RAD ROVS

DAD SPANKS RAD BOYS

Novices welcome. Light to heavier. Sex after preferred, but optional. Me: attractive oral top man 50, 6'5", 350 lbs., You: attractive, GM, 21-40, slim. **☎**6966 (03/28/01)

ARRENAM
Handsome, 41, 5'9", 160 lbs, black/brown, professional, romantic in Los Angeles. Seeking masculine, straight-acting M, 25-40, honest, healthy, for dating and traveling.

#5649 (03/21/01)

33 year old 81 curious WM, attractive, athletic, 6', 190 lbs, described as slightly resembling Mel Gibson. Seeking similar, well endowed, 18-33 BiAM. Let's have coffee, more?

18-10-12-13-13-13-13-13-13-13-13-13-13-1

WINTER PLAYMATE Masculine, versatile bottom, Black male 5'10", 175 lbs., smooth bod, mustache, goatee seeks tall White/Hispanic str8, bi, men 35+ for uninhibited, discreet fun. #6919 (03/28/01)

TIMES SURE DO CHANGE Hated cum. Gradually grew in-different to it, now can't get enuf: need daily fix. Suck you off best ever to maximizel

GWM, 44, balanced, sincere, genuine, playful, communicative, contemplative, settled, enjoy lots, adventuresome. Prefer N/S, N/O, light drinker, HIV_, sensul, romantic for dating, LTR.

=6976 (03/28/01)

WM, late thirties, 8rown hair/8lue/Green eyes, 6'1, 185, clean-shaven gym-going, academic(Ph.0), nice, warm stable, communicative, non-su perficial, engaging, humorous. You: 25-45, college educated, professional, interested meeting a good guy. Let's discuss possibilities.

DLDER SEEKS YOUNGER 67 year old athletic, bi or OPWM, looking for a WM under 40 for safe, discreet from

Marin County. **☆**7009 (03/28/01) **EROTIC MASSAGE**

Free for straight, bisexual, and masculine guys with tight, trim builds from 18-45, Given by trim bisexual WM, 43. **=**6917 (03/28/01)

RESPOND TO AN AD!

☎7795 (04/18/01)

LOOKING FOR SINCERITY
GAM 32, 5'5", Black/Brown,
professional, work out/slim
built seeking professional GWM
28-38, for friendship and possible LTR.

\$\pi\$6945 (03/28/01)

≈6945 (03/28/01)

COME SEE ABOUT ME

Athletic, rugged, professional, clean-cut, Asian, 53, 5'8', 155, seeking similar clean-shaven, lean or muscular WM with positive attributes for adventurous companion or more. Enjoy the out doors, hiking, sports, running, workouts, cultural arts, films, ethnic foods, and quiet interludes at home.

≈6941 (03/28/01)

FEET, SNEER SOCKS, ANYONE OUT THERE? THERE? Attractive Latino, 34, 5'11, 190, dark features, Virgo, size 12 shoe, n/s, n/d would like to meet Latino, Whites or Asians into same fetish. N/s, n/d only, under 38, no games, serious

#6929 (03/28/01)

SGWM Green eyes, brown hair, 175 6', 40, versatile, masculine, smok-er, brew skies, Santa Rosa area seeks same 35-50. Good times/outings. Prefer Italian/Mediterranean you? **2**6955 (03/28/01)



RETIRED HIPPY
Senior SWM (over 63), tall,
artistic, creative, sensitive,
seeks LTR with intellectual, liberated, nonageist soulmate. Interests: theater, reading, writtensests: the terminism,
practical idealism. #7004 (03/28/01)

TO04 (03/28/01)

**SEKING ASJAN FEMALE

SWPM, handsome, 34, dark
hair/green eyes, 6'.1', 175,
healthy, loving, carrig, many interests, dining, arts, nature,
music, seeking AF, attractive,
18-28, good morals, never mar
ried, for meaningful friendship,
possibly more in the future.

**E014 (0.2 (20.04)

Placing your ad in the Bay Guardian's Connections section has never been easier. We have expanded our service to include a team of personals profes-sionals waiting to help you find the Connection best suited to you. It's fast, easy and free to place an

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Ads that end with a 🗠 symbol may be answered by mail. Send your stamped & sealed letter in a separate envelope to:

YOUNG ASIAN FEMALE Receive a free therapeutic/sensual massage and oral-fantasy fulfillment from a handsome, athletic male. Weekdays/week-ends.

SWM FOR SBF
Tall, endowed, 39 seeks independent Black woman. I'm behind you, on my knees offering devotion after your sweaty execise routine.

\$\pi\$7820 (04/18/01)

HORNY OLDER BLACK MALE

☆7817 (04/18/01)

34, 5'2", well endowed, seeks hot college chicks 18-20, under 5'4", should enjoy adult toys, videos, photography, sexy lingerie

MAN, 54, ENDOWED

priceless gifts—lively mind, kind heart, playful spirit, fit body—desires woman equally femininely (buxomly) well endowed, for exchanging gifts. P.O. 8ox 282876, S.F. CA 94128.

DRAI DELIGHTS

Oark harred woman any race
(23-40) sought by European
Professional Gentleman 43,
6'3", 210, blue, brown/blonde
for mutual oral satisfaction.

Call me and tell me what you like

EBONY AND WORY
SWM, 43, decent, honest, open, passionate, professional, creative ISO special S8F 27-43, eclectic, romantic, kind, forthright, attractive, fit for adventure and romance.

ART APPRECIATING NICE GUY Friendly, nice looking, tall, trim, successful designer. Smart, sometimes clueless. Hiking, movies, SF MOMA, dogs. Seek-ing pretty, trim, female, 30s to early 40s.

Potretal Guerrich (1974) agnostic Buddhlst, 30s, Ph.O., slim, longhaired, Mediterranean looking, handsome East Indian prince seeks bright, falr maiden, the gypsy warned about!

Placing an ad in Connections is

≖6978 (03/28/01)

≖6998 (03/28/01)

☎7001 (03/28/01)

=6411 (02/21/01)

☎5426 (01/31/01)

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POLYGLOT GLOBETROTTER

₱7827 (04/18/01)

Connections, 520 Hampshire Street, San Francisco, CA 94110-1417. It will be forwarded to the advertiser.

> SHY YET HDRNY? VIRGIN/SEMI-SHY YET HORNY? VIRGIN/SEMI-Virgin? Learn/practice great sex, great orgasms. Explore your secret sexual desires/fan-tasies. WM well-endowed, very gentle petite ok. Patient teacher will help you reach your full sexual potential. If you have a virgin grifriend/sister- that's fine too. Write to: PO Box 423802 San Francisco, CA 94142. #6839 (02/28/01)

420 COWBOY

☎6839 (02/28/01) LEFS 10(2/28/01)
LEFS TALK SOON!
Seeking a woman who must be willing to lie about how we met. Fun. passionate SPM, 29 seeks SWF 24 to 40.

GREAT CATCN
SWM, 6'11. 1.85, well-built, muscular bod, 38, looks younger, very sexy, romantic, passionate, intelligent, witty, monogamous with varied interests seeks very attractive, similar female for sharing the diversity that life has to offer from a brief romance to soulmate. NDE SEEKS COLE VALLEY NDE SERKS COLE VALLEY
On...Tall, lean, good-looking, independent, professional (41)
with humor, style and parking
problems seeks similar F(2838). I love indle films, Vietnamese food, far torguas.

\$\tilde{\pi}\$6963 (03/28/01)

Slender, sexy female sought by athletic SWM, 45, handsome. I'd like to take weekly trips to neat vacation spots. You provide conversation, company, I the rest.

☆7808 (04/18/01)

ITALIAN FDR ASIAN ITALIAN FOR ASIAN
Authentic Italian, very attractive, 30, tall, athletic, openminded, sensitive and creative seeks sweet, beautiful Asian girl with same qualities.

#7806 (04/18/01)

1806 (04/18/01)
18 y.o. White male, tall, attractive ESL seeking internally rich younger female to join venture in exploring the pleasures and realities of this interesting

☎6847 (02/28/01)

384 (102/28/01)
3WM, 38, brown hair, eyes, 5'8", athletic, healthy and slim seeks LTR with 25-40 year old lady. Oo you love flowers and walks in gardens? Beaches? I will listen to your hopes and desires, wants and needs, your fears, aches and pains. Let's build a loving relationship.
46843 (02/28/01)

YOU WANTED MEL GIRSON 8ut you might settle for this one. Your dad might approve, your mom might behoove...you to check me out! WM, 39, slim

#6842 (02/28/01)

#6842 (02/28/01)
CURIDUS SBM 37
Seeks first interracial relationship. Confident, honest, humor ous, dark, good looks, great body, sharp mind seeks communicative, intelligent, fuhny, physically fit woman 20s-30s.
#6967 (03/28/01) WANTED ASIAN PRINCESS
SWM, blonde/blue, 6'2, 215,
32 looking for Asian woman 1840 who is honest and sincere
for long term only. It's the heart
that matters.

☎6997 (03/28/01)

CARPE OIEM
Synergetic renaissance man
"40 something" seeks "Oark
angel", 25+ for adventure and
serenity. All flavors welcome.
Mixed ancestry a plus.
"6012 (03/28/04) **☎**6912 (03/28/01)

I want to be your Xmas and New Years present both in body and soull This SWM, 46 seeks you for friendship and more! **☆**6845 (02/28/01)

San Francisco Bay Guardian • January 24, 2001 • www.sfbg.com 105

alt.sex.column

by andrea nemerson

Give-andtake

Ever since my fiancée had our baby, she has had little or no sexual desire. I don't know if it's normal or not. The baby is six months old now. We used to have sex almost every day, and now I feel guilty for wanting it once a week. I am a 19-year-old male, so I want it a lot. She breastfeeds and is with our child all day while I'm at work. Please help before I go

Desperately Waiting

Dear Andrea:

I'm 18, and I had a kid six months ago. I stay home with her and breast-feed. I don't go out much. My fiancé always wants to have sex, and I don't want to. Every time he tries, I say, "Get away, don't touch me." Sometimes I just have sex to satisfy him, not because I want to. I don't like it anymore when he kisses me. We used to have sex all the time. Can you tell me what happened to me?

Desperately Avoiding

Dear Waiting and Avoiding:

Listen, kids: your situation is not merely common, it's nearly inevitable. Even women who are sexually interested and active right up until they go into labor are likely to be unavailable for intercourse (at least) for some weeks or months after they give birth. Most are still bleeding a bit. Many have been stitched up following an episiotomy. Recovery from a C-section may take a couple of months, and even then the woman may not be feeling all that frisky. Vaginal or abdominal, giving birth is fairly brutal.

After the brute facts of birth itself, what other factors contribute to a new mother's lack of interest in getting it on? Following months of physical discomfort, weight gain, huge fluctuations in hormone levels, and great anxiety followed by enormous relief, Ms. Avoiding has been rewarded for her efforts with near-total sleep deprivation for somewhere between six months and 18 years. All this while being expected to be a 24-hour short-order cook for the world's most demanding and impatient customer.

This brings us to nursing, which brings us to prolactin, which is the numberone answer to the question, "Why don't nursing mothers want to fuck?" Personally, 1 think any doctor who fails to explain this should be pilloried — if not drawn and quartered — but it appears that many do not and manage to get away with it. Prolactin, the breast-building and milk-producing hormone (men have some too, by the way), is a highly effective "anti-libidonizer," or whatever you'd call a drug that makes you never want to have sex again. Prolactin levels fall quickly if you bottle-feed, but in nursing women they may remain high for 18 months or more. This may have certain evolutionary advantages, but it can be hell on relationships in the here and now.

Anyone who's gone a while without a partner knows that humans have an innate need to be touched, and we suffer horribly when deprived. Friends, massage therapists, prostitutes, even pets can help, but we all need something (preferably someone) to touch us. Less discussed and less charming, we also may have an upper limit on how much touch we can stand, and new and nursing mothers get plenty, thanks. Not only are they constantly hugging, cuddling, and lugging another person about, they are literally giving till it hurts. Babies are takers. Rewarding as parenthood may be, it's mostly a one-way proposition up until the time they can start bringing you breakfast in bed. After touching and giving, giving and touching all day and likely all night as well, is it really all that surprising that Ms. Avoiding feels touched-out and sick of making her body available on demand? You two are only six months in and already about to gnaw your own legs off. You're going to have to do something. Ms. A., your man needs touching. Even if you go no farther, please hug him and curl up with him at night, at least until someone must get up yet again. Then get a breast pump. That way, whenever you're home, Mr. W., it's your turn to be the mama while Ms. A. takes a nap. While you're at it, wash some diapers and make your woman a nice meal. Yes, I understand that you've been working all day and you're beat, but so has she. The more you pull together right now, the more you'll have in common. For the moment that may be mere exhaustion, which isn't very sexy. By the time that prolactin wears off, though, you should have this partnership thing down, and be ready for better sex than you had before. Write me back in six months.

Andrea :

A new, full-length, alt.sex.column appears at noon each Friday on sfbg.com. You can reach Andrea at alt.sex.column, Bay Guardian, 520 Hampshire St., S.F., CA NO SHORT SKIRTS

NO SHORT SKIRTS
no shorts ever. Never married,
young at heart WM with many
interests would cherish the consistent modesty of a woman for
all seasons. Asian a plus.

#6822 (02/28/01)

SEEKING HORNY OLDER

Have you forgotten what it's like to have a man worship your pussy? Clean mature WM with skilled tongue will bring back memories. **2**6836 (02/28/01)

40...BUT HOT! 8usty, slim SWF, big, brown bedroom eyes, high cheek-bones (former model/exotic dancer/massage

Tall, lanky, blonde German, 50s, gentle, loving, versatlle, spiritual, handsome, kind, seeks pretty, slender, unconventional Asian female for joy ous relationship. Letter Photo POB 1329, Pt. Reyes, 94956.

7807 (04/18/01)

EXCEPTIONAL

EXCEPTIONAL
Decent, intelligent, professional, good-looking, sensitive,
healthy, warmhearted, trim
WM, youngish 57, 5' 10',
seeks pretty woman, 40-48.
culturally diverse, with social interests and similar qualities. **4**6368 (02/15/01)

SWM, 61, 5:11*, 200 lbs., wear dentures, retired blue colar, seeks 55+ femme/casual lady. Enjoy home, TV, travel, comfort food and conversation. Hirsute a plus. \$\pi 6738 (02/28/01)\$

☎6854 (02/28/01)

RAGING SLAB OF TESTOSTERONE

Tall, muscular, well endowed Italian-American pleasant features, slightly sardonic seeks pretty woman of the busty, curry body type for tea.

\$\pi 6972 (03/28/01)\$

ASIAN LADY!

ASIAN LADY!
SWPM, 45, nonsmoker, sincere, successful, intelligent, generous, affectionate, tall, fun, seeks sweet, smart, attractive, fun, positive, openminded, SAF for sharing outdoor activities, travel, dining, concerts, film, frendship, romance and possible future together.

□7814 (04/18/01)

SPARKLING LITERARY female wanted, 50-60, as bright, funny, beautiful, pas-sionate, spiritual, naughty as Annie Lamont. I'm handsome (Hemingway), tall, fit, great American novel finished. **☎**6911 (03/28/01)

PUNK ROCK PORN WRITER

☎6853 (02/28/01)

HOPELESS ROMANTIC NOVELESS RUMANIUS SWM, 50+, honest, Sincere and compassionate profession-al enjoys romantic walks, hand holding, cuddling, movies, danc-ing, theater, concerts, romantic dinners and travel. ISO SWF 40-55, with similar interests.

☎6983 (03/28/01)

Attractive, multiracial male, 51,6'2", 220, caring, giving, n/s, lite drinker seeks special lady for dining, smiling, music and nice evenings.

I WON'T BREAK IT Me: 50, 8lack, founder nonprof it charity, smart, funny, honest. You: 8lack, shy, passive, finan-

16939 (03/28/01)

6'4", clean, huggable, long hair artist, looking for fun. Sex optional. You: top heavy, open-minded, preferably 8I, likes a good time, and can smile.

#7809 104/18/01)

FEEL UNAPPRECIATED:
Wanted by literate warm-hearted, funny, adventurous, youthful
40 ish OWM: 8right, soulful independent 30 ish woman with
own sense of style, who destres a rich, full relationship.
Kids OK.

16850 (02/28/01)

Placing an ad in Connections is

DOWN ON MY KNEES
FLUID, long lasting tongue will
give your clit the attention it
needs, when you say when and
where. No muff too tough!
\$\pi\forall 7800 \left(04/18/01)\$

STRONG LOVE

STROME LOVE
Loving, emotional yet in-control, passionate European professional man, never angry and nobody's fool, laughs easily, solves problems, in-shape seeks long haired, petite(Ish) woman, 20s-30s.

#6855 (02/28/01)

OATING RECIPE

Mix supportive, monogamous, secure, handsome, SM, 25, with career, accommodations. with career, accommodations.
Add conversation, good listener, passionate kisser. Serve with independent, affectionate, mature, N/S SF.

#6973 (03/28/01)

MAN SEEKS WOMAN

Black man 62, single, retired, I live alone, 6'3", 290, don't smoke, drink or use drugs, quiet, sincere seeks woman any race, 50-70. If interested reply.

☎6794 (02/28/01)

Creative, intelligent, sophisticated Australian 36, 6'2", 200 lbs., in shape, into music, arts, travel, mountain biking WLTM active women with caring heart for fun and romance. **☎**7006 (03/28/01)

MORTHWEST TRANQUILITY
Western Washington guy seeks
reasonably slim WF, 30s-40s
for quiet times. I like trips,
walks, nature, moonlif nights
and cuddling. Write: P.O. 8ox
1052, Port. Orchard, WA
98366.

±6856 (02/28/01)

SEEKING sharp, self-aware, sensuous and adventurous woman who loves to laugh.

17811 (04/18/01)

Placing an ad in Connections is

1-877-895-7996

☆7822 (04/18/01)

9 INCHES AND HANDSOME

ADD IT UP You prefer "Run Lola Run" to "Home Alone." (+15) Radiohead rocks! (+20)

You prefer chicken pox to Sunday cafe breakfast. (-7)

Handsome, intelligent, well-edu-cated, charismatic, athletic, sexually attractive, humble, hu-

You'd rather spend time in Livermore than Asia. (-30) You'd rather be in Europe than the mall. (+20)

That 8en Stiller is hilarious. (+20)

That Orew Carey is hilarious. (-20)

The Matrix was pretty cool. (+8)

President 8ush is pretty cool. (

Reading books is hard. (-9) You love to laugh. (+23) You're slim and attractive (+25)

You prefer 6'2", 225 lb., average looking men. (+20)
If you get a high number, give me a call.

≖6920 (03/28/01)

TIRED OF THE
singles scene? Handsome 32
year old SWPM, who enjoys life
seeks attractive SWPF for possible LTR.

≖6846 (02/28/01)

77798 (04/18/01)

RECREATIONAL SEX PARTNER

☎6536 (02/07/01)

HANDSOME AFFLUENT
WM, entrepreneur, 48, athletic, traveler into: Tahoe, romance, antiques, epicurean delights, hugs, good friends seeks lady of similar interests. **=**6979 (03/28/01)

Medium height, medium build, easygoing, good nattered, early 50's seeking a girl for dating between 5'-5'6", medium height/build, who is also easy going, good nattered. Hope to hear from you.

OYNAMIC SWM

SEEKING RUSSIAN PRINCESS!
Tall, casual, romantic, professional SWM, 45, seeks intelligent, attractive, passionate

SAN FRANCISCO PROFESSIONAL

Man seeks Asian woman.
SWM, 46, handsome and romantic, looking to find the right AF to settle down with. Tell me why that may be you. Ages 30-40.

≖6986 (03/28/01)

Some men think pussy was meant for sticking. I think it was meant for licking. Let my tongue make your clit stand up at attention.

□6925 (03/28/01)

OLOER WOMAN SWM, 5'10", 150 lbs., 45, ISO older lady for LTR, age open. Must be sincere and affection-

☎6940 (03/28/01)

#6940 (03/28/01)

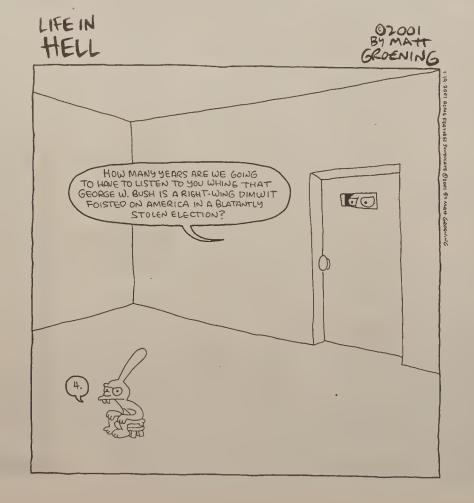
OUTDOORS WOMAN WANTED

DWM, 44 ISO companion for outdoor adventures, movies, etc., to enjoy life with. I'm spontaneous, independent, easygoing, adventurous. Seeking a woman who is ready for a downto-earth nice guy.

#6951 (03/28/01)

his good girl. Seeking friend/love. I'm 44, 6'1", fit, European. 8e tall, in shape, happy, smart and loving. Role play is fun!

☎6950 (03/28/01)



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professional own (great touch assets and values) seeks bright, fun, dependable, adven turesome, busty (DD+) female 35+, to love and respect. Any race. \$\pi\cdot\text{6994} (03/28/01)\$

HANOSÓME, SINGLE OBM
Tall professional, educated, ISO attractive, slender female any race for friendship and romance who's open to social and outdoor activities, 45+. **4**6991 (03/28/01)

30 YEAR OLD PROFESSIONAL
White male, 5'11", dark hair, green eyes, seeking a femalei for mutually beneficial encounters. Please be height/weight proportionate and open.



26914 (03/28/01)

SEXY YOUNG

Soul mate artists and ex-go-go dancers seek 8iF for long walks on the wild side. Oating with options to upgrade to polyfidelity triangle.

≠6965 (03/28/01)

CUROUS COUPLE
WF, 5'9", 140, WM, 5'10",
180 looking for biF or couple
under 35 in similar shape.
Let's chat, then sex it up!
#6840 (02/28/01)

HOT, 40 FEMALE

HOT, 40 FEMALE

Susty, Slim, auburn hair, dark, sexy eyes, 5'6', somewhat dominant, into exploring fantasies, dungeons/equipment use with VI.P. couple/generous submissive SW men. Entertaining at your place. (S F, Marin County).

7803 (04/18/01)

ETRUS (04/15/01)

SEEKING EXOTIC AND EROTIC

adventure SWM, 30 years old,
6'2", blonde/blue 200 lbs.
1S0 couples, Single and married females, ages 18-45 any
race, especially Asian women,
South American and any other
exotic types.

MENAGE A TROIS
European professional, 43, stender, over 6 foot tall, with blue eyes and brown/blonde hair would like to meet a stender couple of any race for mutual pleasures and friendship.

BI MALE seeks couple for mutual oral fun. I am attractive, fit, clean, discreet, HIV-, STD free, profes-sional black male. Call, talk over cocktails.

☎6561 (02/21/01)

MWF, 30's, seeks black gentle-man for oral adventures. My husband would be present (watch only). 8e height/weight proportionate, and leave real phone number. 76918 (03/28/01)

ASIAN OR HISPANIC couple, slender, attractive, under 45 sought by handsome European gentleman for friend-ship and erotic evenings togeth-er. I am 43, tall and slender with eyes and blonde/brownish ball.

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CRICKETS SING
to the cosmos. NA-White, bi
couple, seeks couple, normal
to great shaped, 50-70,
younger OK. Alters, sex ceremories, meet friends. **=**6981 (03/28/01)



DO YOU LIKE MY ORESS?
22 year old TV looking for someone who wants to find out what's really under my skirt.
I'm 5'11, 130tbs., blonde hair, blue eyes, legs that go on for ever, ready for some action.
Let's have fun!

≖6584 (02/07/01)

2 handsome straight men looking for Latin or Caucasian TS/TV for a night of FUN! Large breasts and butt. Must be anal and oral giver!

CUTE BLONGE TS
Very passable, trim and sexy seeks reasonable gentleman or couple for discreet encounters.

#7003 (03/28/01)

YOUNG AND BEAUTIFUL Latina TS ISO generous daddy who knows how to look after a wild girl like me. Come talk to me.

≈6969 (03/28/01)

HANGSOME BM
6", 240, seeks attractive Transsexual bottom with large soft knockers and apple butt, for occasional dictation. Must be discreet oral/anal giver. **≈**6848 (02/28/01)

Submissive Marin TV Very passable, hot, sheer panties, nylons, high heels, baby doll, blonde, red lipstick, perfume. ISO large cocks in need of extra attention. Prefer married, in Marin. Olscreet, clean, on money drivers

=7818 (04/18/01)

STRAIGHT EAST BAY STRAIGHT EAST BAY
WM sincerely curious would like
to meet an attractive TS lady
with charm and grace for conversation and perhaps more.



Obedient lifestyle, submissive SWM 45, 5'10", 160, seeks strict dominant lady for 8D/SM, cross dressing and long term relationship. #6915 (03/28/01)

DEVOTED OADOY

desires to delicately dress his
demure daughter and delight
her with a delicious dinner. Discipline dispensed to denuded
darling after dessert. **☎**7804 (04/18/01)

BENO OVER MY KNESS
Let your big brother pull your pants down and put you over his knees for a good spanking M or F.

#6221 (02/06/01)

Drive Diamond, both voyeur and exhibitionist-specialist in anal domination and discipline of obedient, generous WM slaves-will display boy for public humiliation, bondage scene at Power Exchange worship my big. Black 88W buttocks.

#6931 (03/28/01)

#7799 (04/18/01)

SEXY BLACK LACTATING MOM
4400D-28-36, all natural ISO
generous, senous gents, ladies
and couples for day and
evening lactating pleasures.

47005 (03/28/01)

#7005 (03/28/01)
BBW DOM SEEKS WM BOY
Mistress Black seeks submissive, upscale WM slaves to
train- lingerie, corset control,
leg and foot worship, massage,
tollet and male chastity training, anal play, worship, big wet
panty sniffing, worn stockings
and bras.

#6930 (03/28/01)

WANNA BE MY OADOY?

GWM, 22 years old, looking for a hot daddy who wants to make me his own. I'm interested in leather and fur, but have yet to try it! I want you to show me what your world is all about!

#6585 (02/07/01)

DADDY WITH SUGAR Seeks hot little pussy to put "ice" in, pour champagne on and lick. 1" m rich, tall, sew, 34 SWM. Tease my throbber. "6937 (03/28/01)

MoNEY For NONEY
Susy, healthy, good looking
male seeks female for special
arrangement: any age or race
okay.

#6924 (03/28/01)

PANTIES How they charm me so. 34 bi male submissive panty wearer seeks females and couples for **☎**69,84 (03/28/01)



FEMINIST MEN

FEMINIST MEN
New group forming- "Men
Against Violence Against
Women"- to support local
women's centers and to help
end domestic violence, rape,
and sexual abuse. Call for details.

7/010 (03/28/01)

S8F seeking M/F fluent in writen and spoken Spanish to coach me in conversational Spanish while exploring activities and having fun in S F. \$\pi 6713 (02/28/01)\$

FEMALE ATHLETES

I am a former college athlete and coach new to 8ay Area. Looking to meet other female, gay/str/bi former athletes for team sports and mutual inter-ests.

☎6961 (03/28/01)

NATURE LOVER NATURE LOVER
Adventurous, independent, outdoor-loving male seeks folks
who love to explore the 8ay
Area's wild places. All ages,
hikers and birders welcome.

25337 (02/15/01)

SEX & CITY WOMEN'S CLUB
Oo you watch Sex & City? Set
ing intelligent, fun women age
25-50, any race, any size, for
get-togethers, phone chats.
Let's rock girls!!!

WRITING GROUP IN EMERYVILLE

#6714 (02/28/01)

☎7821 (04/18/01) Mid 30s professional, sophisticated European female fascinated by everything colorful, loves art, delicious food, travel, interesting conversation, working out. Seeks happy female or gay male/female bon vivant with similar interests FOR FRIENOSHIP ONLY! Present soulmate/lover terminally busy, I'm seeking good laughs and fun.

FRIOAY NITE KARAOKE
Get up and sing or just watch
and socialize with a fun group
of guys and gals. Pizza afterwards anyone?

☎6827 (02/28/01)

Reading/discussion group fo-cusing on social justice, human right, and intimate relationships will meet on the first Thursday of each month in SF 8eginning 02/01/01. Let's have fun, meet others, and discuss inter-esting ideas. All calls an-swered!

=6946 (03/28/01)

GERMAN LANGUAGE POTLUCK party meets in S F and East 8ay. We are bi and homosexual men. Women are welcome. No

☎6927 (03/28/01)

=6926 (03/28/01)



CHRIS— MARTINI GRILLE Chris, we met in Albuquerque November. Missed each other at the Sunshine Theatre. I'd

☎7019 ()

BOULANGERIE ON POLK At Green on Jan. 5, 2001. Me: Green cap meeting acquain-tance. As you left we smiled, walked past and looked back at each other. Let's meetl **1**6974 (03/28/01)

You: Graphic artist, used to live in Washington D.C, you flew on to Tucson, I flew on to Denver. Ingenue in between made me shy.

To find out about upcoming

Connections events or to in

quire about your business can benefit from working with

You had no hair, mine was pur-ple. We hung out around '95. Really miss you, would like to hook up. Steve L. ROBIN @ TOBLORES PARK
12/31. Tall, goatee'd guy enjoyed your sharp mind and warm smile as our kids played. Would like to know more. Coffee? 26960 (03/28/01) ALLIE THE SNOWBOARDER 12/30 at Squaw. I'm Craig. We chatted on the ski lift. I didn't have a chance to ask you for coffee. **☎**6943 (03/28/01)

☎6985 (03/28/01)

BROOKLYN BRONZE Photographer looking for you. Call Tommy.

☎6928 (03/28/01)



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Legal Notices

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 245514 FILE NO. 245514
The following person is doing business as MILFORD CON5TRUCTION. 1212 ALA8AMA
5TREET, 5an Francisco, CA
94110; JO5EPH O'FLYNN, 1212
ALA8AMA 5TREET, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date October 29, 1999.
This business is conducted by an individual. Signed JOSEPH O'FLYNN. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of 5 an Francisco, CA by M. Lucas Reston, on December 21, 2000. JANUARY 3, 10,

21, 2000, JANUARY 3, 10. ber 21, 2000. JANUART 3, 17, 24, 2001. L# 3S1401

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 245749 FILE NO. 245749
The following person is doing business as KEN BUCK PHO-TDGRAPHY, 1272 Rhode Island Street #17, 5an Francisco, CA 94107: KENNETH A. BUCK, 1272 Rhode Island Street #17, 5an Francisco, CA 94107: Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 3, 2001. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Ken Buck. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA by Magdaleria Zevallos, on January, 3, 2001. January

on January, 3, 2001. January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001. L# 351502 351502 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 245738

FILE NO. 245738
The following person is doing business as FERN N'THE 80Y5 PRODUCTIONS, 1619 Judah Street, 5an Francisco, CA 94122: ERIC STEVEN MILL5, 1619 Judah Street, 5an Francisco, CA 94122: This business is conducted by an individual. Signed ERIC MILL5. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA by M. Lucas Rebston, on January 2, 2001. Rebston, on January 2, 2001. January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001. L# 351506 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 245865 FILE NO. 245865
The following person is doing business as E5HDM CDNSTRUCTION, 583 Missouri Street, 5an Francisco, CA 94107: RAYMOND MCKINLEY E5HDM III, 583 Missouri Street, 5an Francisco, CA 94107. Registrant commenced business under the above futitious business mame on the date January 8, 2001. This business is conducted by an individual, 5igned Ray Eshom. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County Clerk of the City and County Clerk of the City and 2001. January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001. L# 351507
TICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE ND. 245864 FILE ND. 245864
The following person is doing business as MEYERS AIR PACIFIC, 677 Hampshire Street, San Francisco, CA 94110: WILLIAM MYER5, 677 Hampshire Street, San Francisco, CA 94110: WILLIAM MYER5, 677 Hampshire Street, San Francisco, CA 94110: William MYER5, 677 Hampshire Street, San Francisco, CA 94110. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 8, 2001. This business is conducted by an individual, Signed WILLIAM MYERS. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA by Maribel Jaldon, on January 8, 2001. LiMNUARY 17, 24, 31, FEBRUARY 7, 2001. Lim 354601
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 245925

FILE NO. 245925

FILE NO. 245925
The following person is doing business as LA FRANCE A55OCI-ATE5, 1242 Market Street, 2nd Floor, 5an Francisco, CA 94102; 5TEVEN RAYMOND LA FRANCE, 3903 19th Street, 5an Francisco, CA 94114. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 1, 2001. This business is conducted by an individual, 5igned Steven R. La France. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of 5an Francisco, CA by Jennifer Lynn Venegas, on January 10, 2001. JANUARY 17, 24, 31, FEBRUARY 7, 2001. LW 354602
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 245930

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 245930
The following person is doing business as CO80'5 GROCERY. 2681 21st Street, 5an Francisco, CA 94112 HID HIM HOR GOV. 1614 42nd Ave., 5an Francisco, CA 94122 Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 10, 2001. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed KiM HOR GDV. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of 5an Francisco, CA by Manibel Jaidon, on January 10, 2001. January 24, 31 February 7, 14, 2001. L# 351702
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT
FILE NO. 300097
The following persons are doing histories are ESPOPULICENT.

PILE NO. 300097
The following persons are doing business as \$54RCHLIGHT FILMS, 2600 Tenth 5treet, Surfer 103, 8erkeley, CA 94710: #1 Ashley Clarke James, 622 Sixty Sixth 5treet, Oakland, CA 94609
#12 Kathryn Pamela Golden, CA 94609, This business is conducted by a partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business under the fictitious business aname listed below in 1981. Signed Kathryn Golden, This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the County of Alameda, CA by Patrick 0'-Connell, County Clerk, on January 5, 2001.

January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2001. L# 351703.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 300097 FILE NO. 300097
The following persons are doing business as SEARCHLIGHT FILMS, 2600 Tenth Street, Suite 103, Berkeley, CA 94710: #1
Ashley Clarke James, 622 5ixty Sixth Street, Oakland, CA 94609
#2 Kathryn Pamela Golden, 622 5ixty Sixth Street, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by a partnership. The registrant commenced to transact business mame listed below in 1981. Signed Kathryn Golden, This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the County of Alameda, CA by Patrick O'Connell, County Clerk, on January 5, 2001.

January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2001. L# 351703. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

TLE NO. 300097

FILE NO. 300097
The following persons are doing business as SEARCHLIGHT FILMS, 2600 Tenth Street, Suite 103, Berkeley, CA 94710: #1
Ashley Clarke James, 622 5xty 5xth Street, Dakland, CA 94609
#2 Kathryn Pamela Golden, 622 5xty 5xth Street, Oakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by a partnership. The registrant commenced to transsact business under the fictious business name listed below in 1981. Signed Kathryn Golden, This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the County of Alameda, CA by Patrick O'Connell, County Clerk, on January 5, 2001.

January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2001. L# 351703. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT PILE NO. 300097
The following persons are doing business as SEARCHLIGHT FILMS, 2600 Tenth Street, 5ulte 103, Berkeley, CA 94710. #1 Ashley Clarke James, 622 5ixty 5ixth Street, Dakland, CA 94609. #2 Kathryn Pamela Golden, 622 5ixty 5ixth Street, Dakland, CA 94609. This business is conducted by a partnership, engistrant commenced to transact business name listed below in 1981. 5igned Kathryn Golden. This statement was filled with the County Clerk of the County Orangel. County Clerk, on January 5, 2001.
January 24, 31, February 7, January 24, 31, February 7,

January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2001. L# 3S1703. FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT PILE NO. 246099
The following person is doing business as AIDAN MC CARTHY CLEANING SERVICES, 424 Elias Street, San Francisco, CAPALL AGE STATEMENT OF AIDAN MC CARTHY 424 Elias Commenced business and for the date lanuary 18, 2001. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed AIDAN MC CARTHY, This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA by Maribel Jaldon, on January 18, 2001. January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2001. L# 351704.
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME TATALEMENT.

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT FILE NO. 245984
The following person is doing business as EURDPEAN 8LONDES, 2005 Mission Street, 5an Francisco, CA 94110: Daniele 8 Katzenberger, 1705 Lombard Street, #105, Sam Francisco, CA Registrant commenced business under the above futitious business name on the date January 12, 2001. This business is conducted by a street of the City and County of Sam Francisco, CA by Jennifer Lynn Venegas, on January 12, 2001. January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2001. January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2001. List 381706
FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME STATEMENT

FILE NO. 246144

FILE NO. 246144
The following person is doing business as MARKETING ETC. 5F, 1862 Filibert 5treet, 5an Francisco, CA 94123: Jeanne 8rophy, 1862 Filibert 5treet, San Francisco, CA 94123: Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name on the date January 19, 2001. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Jeanne 8rophy. This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA by Keith Wong, on January 19, 2001. January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2001. Lif 3531707 FICTITIOUS BUSINESS NAME

FILE NO. 245952
The following person is doing business as YOKO'S GIFT5HOP MIYAKO INN, 1800 Sutter Street, 5an Francisco, CA 94115: YOKO Y. ENDO, 841 Stonegate Drive, 5outh San Francisco, CA 94080. Registrant commenced business under the above fictitious business name in the date January 11, 2001. This business is conducted by an individual. Signed Yoko Y. Endo, This statement was filed with the County Clerk of the City and County of San Francisco, CA by Kit Chau, on January 11, 2001.

OROER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME NO. 317738 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the Application of JOVINO JOSE ARIAS III, For Change Of Name. Application of JOVINO JO5E
ARIA5 III, For Change Of Name.
The application of JOVINO JO5E
ARIA5 III for change of name,
having been filed in Court, and it
appearing from said application
that JOVINO JO5E ARIA5 III has appearing from said application that JOVINO JOSE ARIAS III has filed an application proposing that His name be changed to JOVINO. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 27th day of February, 2001, at 9:00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Order be published in the 5an Francisco Bay Guardian a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said county, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 28th day of December, 2000. Alfred G. Chiantelli, Judge of said Superior Court. JANUARY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001. L# 351403.

JANUARY 3, 10, 17, 24, 2001.

351403

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME NO. 316281

IN THE SUPERIDR COURT OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN AND FOR THE COUNTY OF 5AN FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the Application of VICTOR GONZALO LEDN (minor) by JULIA J. MOLI-NA (mother) 43 Persia Av. 5F, CA 94112. For Change Df Name. The application of VICTOR GONZALO LEDN man been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that VICTOR GONZALO LEDN has filled an application proposhas filed an application propos-ing that His name be changed to VICTDR GONZALO LEON-MOLINA.

Judge of said Superior Court. January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001. Judge of said Superior Court.
January 1.0, 17, 24, 31, 2001.

LW 351501

OROER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR
CHANGE OF NAME NO. 317504

HE SUPERIDR COURT OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN
ARANCISCO.

RANCISCO.

RANCISCO.

RANCISCO.

RANCISCO.

RANCISCO.

TO STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN
ARANCISCO.

TO LOWN TO GIT THE
Application of BRADLEY
SCOTT RUBINS for Change of Name.
The application of BRADLEY
SCOTT RUBINS for Change of Name.
The application of BRADLEY
SCOTT RUBINS for Change of STATE
COURT, and it appearing from
Said application that BRADLEY
SCOTT RUBINS has filed an application proposing that his
COURT, and it appearing that his
COURT, and it appearing that his
COURT, and it appearing that his
COURT, and it all persons interested in said matter do appear be
fore this Court in Department
218 on the 20th day of February.

2010. 1a 9:00am of said
day to show cause why the application for change of rame
should not be granted. It is furshould not be granted. It

CHANGE OF NAME NO. 317596
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the
Application of CATHERINE MARIE
SCHAIDLER FOR Change Of
Name. The application of
CATHERINE MARIE SCHAIDLER
(or change of name. having been Name. The application of CATHERINE MARIE SCHAIDLER for change of name, having been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application that CATHERINE MARIE SCHAIDLER has filed an application proposing that Her name be changed to CATHERINE SCHAIDLER IM-MANUEL. Now, therefore, it is hereby ordered and directed, that all persons interested in said matter do appear before this Court in Department 218 on the 20th day of February, 2001, at 9.00am of said day to show cause why the application for change of name should not be granted. It is further ordered that a copy of this Drder be published in the 5an Francisco 8ay Guardian a newspaper of general circulation, printed in said countly, at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the day of said hearing. Dated this 18th day of December, 2000 by Alan Carlson, Clerk for Alfred G. Chantelli, Judge of said Superior Court. January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001. Mis 351504

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antelli, Judge of Said Superior Court. January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001. L# 3S1S03

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OROER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME NO. 318054 CHANGE OF NAME NO. 318054
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT.
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT.
THE STATE OF CALLFORNIA IN
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the
Application of ADRIANA TELLO
DIAZ For Change Of Name. The
application of ADRIANA TELLO
DIAZ for change of name, have
mag been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application
that ADRIANA TELLO DIAZ has
filed an application proposing
that Her name be changed to
ADRIANA BRAVA. Now, therefore,
it is hereby ordered and direct,
ed. that all persons interested
in said matter do appear before
this Court in Department 2.18 on
the thid day of March 20, 2001,
at 9-00am of said day to show
cause why the application for
change of name should not be
granted. It is further ordered
inat a copy of this Order be published in the San Francisco 8ay
Guardian a newspaper of genera
includion, printed in said
county, at least once each week
or four successive weeks prior
to the day of said hearing.

OROER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME NO. 317959 CHANGE OF NAME NO. 31795
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO In the Matter of the
Application of THAO THI NGUYEN
FOR Change Of Name. The application of THAO THI NGUYEN
Change Of name, having been
filed in Court, and it appearing
from said application that THAO
THI NGUYEN has filed an application proposing that Her name
be changed to TINA THI-LY
MGUYEN Now, therefore, it is
hereby ordered and directed,
that all persons interested in
said matter do appear before
this Court in Department 218 on
the 12th day of March, 2001, a
19-00am of said day to show
cause why the application for
change of name should not be
granted. It is fur ther ordered
that a copy of this Order be published in the San Francisco Bay
Guardian a newspaper of geneal circulation, printed in said
county, at least once each week
for four successive weeks prior
to the day of said hearing.
Dated this 9th day of January,
2001. Ronald Evans Quidachay,
Judge of said Superior Court.
January 24, 31, February 7, 14,
January 24, 31, February 7, 14,
January 24, 31, February 7, 14, Judge of said Superior Court. January 24, 31, February 7, 14, 2001. L# 3S1701

OROER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR CHANGE OF NAME NO. 31823S CHANGE OF NAME NO. 318235
IN THE SUPPRIOR COURT OF
THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA IN
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO. In the Matter of the
AND FOR THE COUNTY OF SAN
FRANCISCO IN THE MATTER TO THE
APPLICATION OF THE THE
ELOUISE LEYLA TAY
LOR For Change Of
MARE. THE SELOUISE LEYLA TAY
LOR For change of name, having
been filed in Court, and it appearing from said application
that has filed
an application proposing that
Her name be changed to NINE
deJANVIER Now. Interfore, it is
hereby ordered and directed,
that all persons interested in
said matter do appear before
this Court in Department 218 on
the 19th day of March, 2001, at
19:00am of said day to show
cause why the application for
change of name should not be
granted. It is further ordered
that a company of this Order be pub-

24, 31 February 7, 14, 2001. L# 35170S

PETITION FOR CHANGE OF NAME CASE NO. 3176S1 Attor ney or Party without Attorney Name and Address:) NGOC LAN RAN, 98 Parkridge Drive, San Noner's resides at: 98 Parkridge Drive, San Francisco, Ca 94131. Petitioner's present name is. NGOC LAN TRAN Proposed name is: FRANCINE LAN TRAN Proposed name is: FRANCINE LAN TRAN The reason for the proposed change of name is: I would like to change my name to Francine which is the name I currently go by. Petitioner's father is: Luan Duc Tran, 1590 Calle De Stuarda. San Jose, Ca 95118. PETITIONER DE. CLARES UNDER PENALTY OF PERJURY UNDER THE LAWS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA THAT SHE IS NOT UNDER THE JURISDICTION OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OR IS REQUIRED TO REGISTER AS A SEX OFFENDER PURSUANT TO SECTION 290 OF THE PENAL CODE. On the hearing, this Court makes an order changing petitioner's name from: NGOC LAN TRAN to FRANCINE LAN TRAN. Dated this 22 day of December, 2000 by Gordon Parkl., Clerk of said Superior Court. January 10, 17, 24, perior Court. January 10, 17, 24, 31, 2001. L# 3S150S



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Fee/Guarantee.
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Aries

March 21-April 19

Long ago, before the planet Pluto was discovered, Aries and Scorpio had to share a ruling planet. And people wonder how Scorpios got so mean. Anyway, after Pluto arrived, the Scorpios got their own planet (the one associated with traumatic change), leaving Aries to hog the planet of violence and aggression all to themselves. This week you get to trade with the Scorpios. Traumatic change is your friend, while aggression should be rescheduled for a more appropriate time in the relatively remote future.

Taurus

April 20–May 20

The moment you finish reading this, I want you to head out to the nearest purveyor of delectables and acquire yourself some of that fancy shmancy chocolate, or some Really Good Beer, or whatever your favorite celebratory treat may be. even without an excuse right about now, but if you insist, it's because Saturn is no longer retrograde in Taurus, and it'll be another 28 years before you go through anything remotely as weird as the winter of 2000 again.

Gemini

May 21-June 20

I'd love to tell you that all the complaints you'll ever have about money will be solved this week, leaving you to live your life in peace Dec. 22-Jan. 19 without having to worry about Alas. Only one of your money issues these days, forcing you to ponder will straighten itself out this week. really lucky.

Cancer

June 21–July 22

Your sign was named because of the Aquarius erroneous belief that crabs were so fertile that they could reproduce without even stopping for sex. Anyou're all over it. Dress it up and take it out for a walk.

Leo

July 23-Aug. 22

The Leo lifestyle is expensive. It requires lots and lots of networking, during time that boring people would spend making money. Balance your desire for frivolous things like rent and clothes against your need for social activity this week.

Virgo

Aug. 23-Sept. 22

People with negative attitudes tend to discourage your more optimistic friends from stopping by, and if you give them half a chance, they'll poison your dreams and transform your ambitions to nihilistic despair. Contact Charon Dunn-Roff at P.O. Don't let gloommongers rain on your parade this week.

Libra

Sept. 23-Oct. 22

It's a mental sort of week, so climb up to your ivory tower and pull up the rope ladder behind you. As long as you keep everything strictly intellectual and don't let the yucky, mundane little problems of earth get in your way, you'll pass with honors.

Ian. 25-31, 2001

Scorpio

Oct. 23-Nov. 20

Many Scorpios report having an unusual interest in philosophy, since their ruling planet has been in the overeducated ivory towers of Sagittarius. Indeed, this is a perfect time to go over your personal treatise on How Life Works and perform the next edit. Spell check your philosophy this week.

Sagittarius

Nov. 21-Dec. 21

If you were born under the sign of Savage Terrorist — uh, I mean Sagittarius — odds are good you Why? Well, you probably feel festive have strong political opinions. And occasionally you like to engage in spirited conversation about your feelings in this area. And once in a great while, you like to corner some deluded proponent of the opposition and carefully dissect their argument with all the skill of a sushichef rearranging a squid, in front of witnesses. Which brings bright smiles to the faces of those of us who tend to agree with you.

Capricorn

Where do you really want to live? green pictures of dead white guys or The insanity planets have been lurkscary ATMs that show commercials. ing around your house of real estate the kind of terrain you want to in-Well, maybe a couple more if you're habit, the sort of locals you want to impress, the numerological meaning of your ZIP code. Envision your dream dwelling this week.

lan, 20-Feb, 18

I've been trying to find an apocalyptic millennial cult to join this other word for "appearing extremely week, since I figure by now I should fertile" is "sexy," and baby, this week be able to get a substantial discount on membership dues. "Wait until the price comes down" is yet one of the wise things I have learned from Aquarians. Others will seek your Aquarian advice on financial matters this week. Maybe you should charge a consulting fee.

Pisces

Feb. 19-March 20

It is said that angels appear more frequently to Pisceans than any other sign. Of course, there's also the possibility that Pisceans are just the sort of people who'll discuss their encounters with angels in public. Whatever, Anyway, expect at least one more weird religious experience than normal (for you) this week. 💠

Box 191434, S.F., CA 94119 or cdroff@pacbell.net.

San Francisco Bay Guardian • January 24, 2001 • www.sfbg.com



Rambo and Chumley are quite the pair! These brothers are

10-year-old Boxer mixes who are quite confident that the suitable match will come and adopt them. They are fun-loving boys who are still looking for a bit of adventure in their lives O they're not about to slow down now! They would really love it if they could share a bed and their toys in their new home, and go on walks together to see the world. Rambo weighs 15 lbs, and Chumley is at about 70 lbs. A household with kids over eight years old would be best for these fabulous fellows. When you adopt Rambo and Chumley from The San Francisco

SPCA, you'll get all the fabulous goodies that always come with pets from The San Francisco SPCA: a free first medical exam from a local veterinarian, temporary identification tags, and a medical assistance plan. All this and these amazing dogs for





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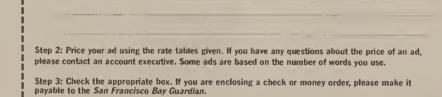
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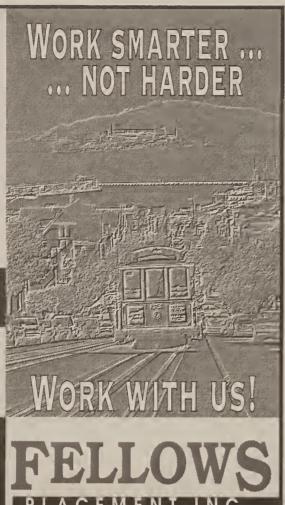
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